Colorado

CU BOULDER'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE FALL 2025

>> THE HUMAN IMPACT OF RESEARCH

Discoveries that stretch across our world and beyond.

Now

August 2025

This fall, 7,000 first-year students moved into 26 CU Boulder residence halls. According to the university's Division of Student Life, 95% of first-year students live on campus. Of the remaining undergraduate and graduate students, 23% live on campus.

Move-in day brings a special buzz to campus each year — hundreds of volunteers wheel students' belongings in giant carts to their residence hall rooms, show them around campus and help them get settled into life as a Buff.

Off campus, CU Boulder also offers university-owned apartments and family housing to help students balance their academic lives with family needs.

"Move-in day is so exciting!" wrote **Meghan Martelon-Evans** (PolSci'89) in a Facebook post welcoming new Buffs.

We want to hear your best move-in stories! Write us at **editor@colorado.edu**.

Photo by **Patrick Campbell**

CU Athletics

Contents

On the Cover
"My little part today, or this week or this month, is part of a bigger picture," said **Andrew Poppe** (Phys'06; PhD'11). A look at CU Boulder's research. Illustration by John Provencher.

↗ One-year-old Ralphie VII, nicknamed Brandy, successfully ran her first game against Wyoming on Sept. 20.

Editor's Note

Six years ago, then-*Coloradan* editor Eric Gershon wrote: "Words matter — and for magazines, so do looks." I couldn't agree more. Over the past year, our team partnered with Pentagram's Austin, Texas, branch to reimagine the visual landscape of the *Coloradan*, one of the university's oldest traditions.

Our goal was a fresh, modern look: lighter spreads, cleaner styling, simplified color palettes and bold photography that captures CU Boulder's spirit. We refined fonts, sizes and spacing to make our signature "slim jim" format more accessible and engaging. (Fun fact: The magazine's unique size originated as a cost-saving measure for postage and has since become iconic.) Today, its shape, weight and sustainably sourced paper help ensure every alum can receive a copy.

Inside, you'll see updated sections alongside the same great storytelling. Sports is now **Rundown**. **Elevated** highlights a campus story through visuals and data. **Fieldwork** dives into faculty and leadership insights. And new features — **Buff Built**, **Point of View** and **Waypoint** — showcase Buff innovations, faculty perspectives in an op-ed format and CU's statewide impact.

We hope you enjoy the new look and, as always, we welcome your feedback.

Maria Kuntz
Editor

Contact me at
editor@colorado.edu

→ We want to hear from you!
Send photos, feedback and recommendations to
editor@colorado.edu
or University of Colorado Boulder, 552 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309

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on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn

Letters edited for length and clarity.

↗ Read more at
colorado.edu/coloradan

Boulder's Fireflies

I've seen fireflies in Boulder County, too, in the marsh on the south end of McIntosh Lake in Longmont.

Jeff Mathews
Lyons, Colorado

The Secret Life of Mary Rippon

This was a really interesting article. I really love Professor Rippon's story. Stories like these need to be brought up and told, or they will be forgotten. Keep up the great work.

Bryce Perea
Westminster, Colorado

Clarifying CU Dining

Being that my daughter will be a sophomore at CSU next month, I left the issue open for her to see the "Kale, Yeah!" article. She said she does not believe CU Boulder offers the food options shown in the issue to the general student body participating in the on-campus meal program, and that the dining options offered at CSU are known to be better than CU. I am skeptical, too. Could you please send me information on how my daughter and I can visit CU food services prior to her semester at CSU, so we can see for ourselves what is presented in the *Coloradan*?

Martin Orner
(EnvDes'83)
Longmont, Colorado

[Editor's Note: All of the food options featured in the story's photo were taken directly from the student buffet lines during a Wednesday lunch service at the Village Dining Center.]

CU Performing Arts Concern

The latest issue contains not a single piece on the performing arts scene at the university, home of the world-renowned Shakespeare Festival. What excuse can there be for this omission, which happens on a regular basis?

Hugh Heckman
(PolSci'69)
Forest Hills, New York

[Editor's Note: CU Boulder comprises 11 colleges and schools and over 150 courses of study. We try to balance coverage from across the university, including research, student life and alumni success via our three issues per year.]

Lamp Post Memories

When I attended CU in the early 1960s, pre-Dark Horse days, the go-to place for the over-21 crowd was the Lamp Post. It was way more mellow and mature than the frenetic Sink and Tulagi. I still have a few swizzle sticks from the place. Just before my graduation in 1963, the Lamp Post advertised the "Last Blast," a night when seniors and their dates could get free drinks. Naturally, my girlfriend and I went. The crowd was so huge that I can't remember if we ever got up to the bar. I was living that last semester at the large Skyland Apartments, and all students had to vacate during graduation week so the apartments could be rented to families of graduates. I spent my last few nights in Boulder crashing on a friend's couch.

Gerald Miller (Bus'63)
Pueblo, Colorado

Thrift Store Treasure

I found this [image] in a Goodwill store in New Jersey near my home.

It looks like the distant mesa from either "The Hill" or the hill where NCAR was built. Maybe you can tell.

I hope it is interesting enough to be included in the *Coloradan*. I sure do miss CU.

Richard Thomas Burke
(Engl'69)
Red Bank, New Jersey

The Gift of a Lifetime

Alan Cohen [Q&A, Spring 2025] and I were fraternity brothers at UC Berkeley. We remained friends until the Iraq war, when we parted ways due to political differences. Alan's wife, Susie, introduced me to my now-wife of 56 years. That was in Guatemala in 1968. I am forever grateful to them for that astounding gift.

Richard Golden

Colorado Wolves

Early on a blue-steel cold January weekday in 1976, I was ice-fishing on Left Hand Reservoir up the foothills west of Ward. There was not another human soul for miles.

A movement caught my eye. Standing stock still, I watched a gray wolf emerge from the tree line, a snowshoe rabbit in his jaws. He dropped his prey to get a better bite and glanced around. I whistled; he high-tailed it.

How do you introduce a wolf into Colorado? "Hello, wolf."

Drew Clearie (Psych'72)
Sarasota, Florida

Facebook Love

I always look forward to receiving my husband's alumni journal in the mail. It's so well done — from editorial to design layout, a model college publication.

Margaret Thresher
Via Facebook

[Correction: In our "Boulder Buffs" cover story for the summer issue, we did not list Jun Ye's CU Boulder doctorate. He graduated in 1997 with a PhD in physics. We regret the error.]

Feedback Loop

I found this [image] in a Goodwill store in New Jersey near my home. It looks like the distant mesa from either "The Hill" or the hill where NCAR was built.

Provided by Richard Thomas Burke

Coloradan

Volume 31, Number 1
Fall 2025

Coloradan aims to inform, inspire and foster community among alumni, friends and admirers of the University of Colorado Boulder, and to engage them in the life of the university. We strive to practice inclusive storytelling in every aspect of the publication. Our goal is to uplift and share stories that represent a wide range of CU Boulder experiences while working to develop a deeper sense of belonging for all involved with the university.

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Design and Art Direction
Pentagram Austin

Herd

→ Campus News is now called Herd
Showcasing research, news and events related to CU Boulder.

Ghosts in Code

CU Boulder's Jed Brubaker is studying how AI could shape the way we grieve, remember and stay connected after death.

By **Lisa Marshall**

Each day, AI plays a greater role in our lives. Soon, it could also transform the way we interact with the dead.

"Today, you might interact with a Facebook memorial page for grandpa after he dies. But what would it feel like to actually sit down with grandpa by the fire and have a conversation with him?" asked CU Boulder information science professor Jed Brubaker.

In a spring 2025 research paper, Brubaker predicts a future in which individuals routinely create custom "AI agents" to interact with the living after they're gone. And he and his students have already begun beta testing their own "AI ghosts" to gauge how people feel about them.

Rudimentary versions have been around for years, he noted. After musician Lou Reed died in 2013, his life partner created a text-based chatbot (trained with Reed's writings, songs and interviews) that she still, reportedly, converses with. And, in 2019, a grieving mother famously used a virtual reality set-up to play with an AI version of her young daughter, who had died years earlier.

Startups like Re;memory and HereAfter AI already help the living create posthumous digital versions of themselves, using pre-recorded video and audio clips.

But Brubaker is most intrigued by what's coming in the next innovation wave: Powered by tech features that enable autonomous next-gen bots to understand language, remember and make decisions, forthcoming "AI ghosts" could do far more than regurgitate old stories.

For instance, they could have a live conversation about current events, write a new poem or help their kids manage their estate. But along with promise comes peril.

Can interacting with an AI ghost become unhealthy? How can one be sure no one will make a ghost out of them, against their will? When and how should a generative ghost die?

Brubaker doesn't have the answers yet, but he hopes his research will get tech companies and policymakers thinking.

Illustration by **Hokyoung Kim**

A Record-Breaking Fundraising Year

Alumni and donors helped CU Boulder achieve a record-breaking fundraising year, raising $228.9 million from 44,055 donors investing in the university. The gifts demonstrate a deep commitment to the university's vision, and serve as a catalyst for CU Boulder's future as it heads into 2026 — its 150th year celebration.

This year, the university received gifts that drive student achievement, sustainability leadership, research excellence and community partnerships.

Each gift is guided by donor intent, ensuring private support for student success, faculty and research aligns with CU Boulder's mission and cannot be reallocated to cover other funding losses.

A $15 million gift from **Michael Klump** (PolSci'87) was motivated by his experience at CU Boulder. His investment is transforming the Real Estate Center and strengthening student wellness services to prepare business graduates as leaders.

A $1.9 million bequest from the late **Donald** (A&S'62) and **Karen Ringsby** (Engl'62) to support the CU Art Museum helps preserve and enhance cultural experiences on campus, ensuring that creativity and access to the visual arts remain a resource for all.

And, the university's annual giving day, Buffs All In, demonstrated the power of community and collective generosity. This year's campaign raised the most in its history — over $1 million from 2,500 donors.

↗ Read more stories or give at **colorado.edu/advancement**

Climate Leadership Starts Here

In March 2025, Andrew Mayock joined CU Boulder as its first vice chancellor for sustainability. Mayock previously served as chief sustainability officer for the United States government, where he led the Biden administration's efforts to decarbonize federal operations and accelerate clean energy adoption.

Interview by **Christie Sounart**

↑ Andrew Mayock and his electric car on East Campus.

What spurred you to work in higher education? I see it as a really critical piece of my work to help grow the next generation of leaders in climate sustainability. At CU Boulder, it is a great opportunity to do that at scale. In considering this role, I found CU has an extraordinary foundation of sustainability work that goes back decades, and pent-up demand to build on that legacy.

Where do you see CU Boulder already excelling in sustainability? We have extraordinary existing efforts and assets across research, education, operations and community engagement — for instance, the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research's (INSTAAR) work in critical longitudinal atmospheric carbon studies, the Mountain Research Station, the two sustainability master's degrees recently approved through engineering and business, eliminating single-use plastic beverages campuswide and much more. Also, the kind of progress we're making in embedding sustainability in the curriculum is taking it right back to where it all belongs — with the students.

What opportunities do you see for improvement? There were places where we were once at the frontier, but we haven't kept pace. It's time for a recharge in these areas, so we can be a leader again. And then there's areas where we're at the frontier, and we need to accelerate and define a new frontier. The newly created Buckley Center for Sustainability Education is redefining leadership opportunity, for instance. The Buckley Center is going to help us respond to student demand for more sustainability in the curriculum and experiential learning, and it is also going to serve students interested in non-sustainability-related majors and disciplines across campus.

How do you see CU Boulder leading the way in sustainability to become recognized globally? One clear initiative is to gain more recognition in work that we're already doing. I'm thinking of engineering professor **Evan Thomas** (AeroEngr, Jour'06; MEngr'06; PhD'09) and the Mortenson Center in Global Engineering & Resilience's work improving clean water supply in east Africa, for example. Here, through many others' work, we're having an outsized global impact across the planet, and we plan to amplify this work in places such as November's COP 30 climate conference in Brazil and September's Climate Week NYC.

What role do students have in CU sustainability? Students are at the center of the efforts. My draw to Boulder included seeing the efforts already underway by the student community, like Ralphie's Green Stampede or the EcoVisits. Now, it's time to take it to the next level. The vision is to make this university more of a living lab, bringing research to education on campus and enabling students to help make progress on the Climate Action Plan.

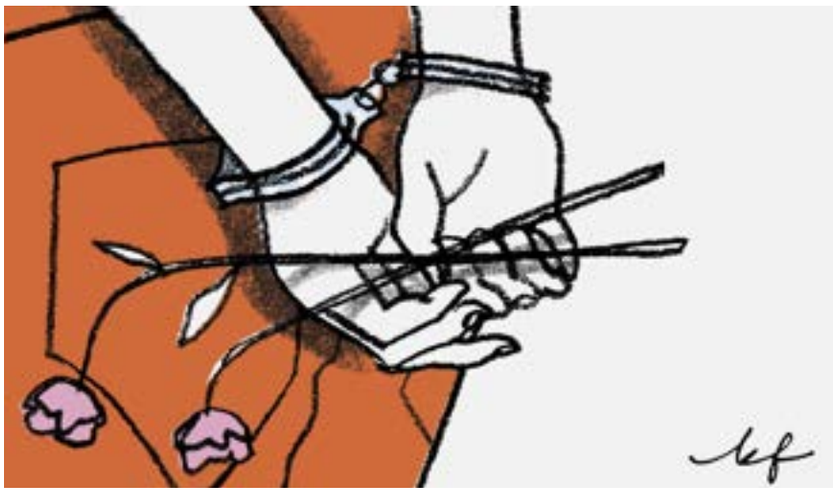
Are there specific innovations or technologies you're excited to explore at CU? Boulder startups are moving cutting-edge research from lab to market, like the carbon-negative cement company Prometheus Materials. Their innovation and dynamism are helping solve the climate crisis through research-driven products. [Bill Gates'] Breakthrough Energy's selection of the university as a new partner is another example of this work. Boulder is approaching the quality and vibrancy of Stanford.

What else should we know about campus sustainability? It's a top priority of the chancellor and our office to double down on how CU Boulder delivers sustainability solutions for Colorado communities. We have an ability and obligation, due to the talent and programming we have here, and we have a need in this urgent moment to be an even stronger partner to our state communities.

What are your interests outside of work? I generally try to keep up with my 10- and 12-year-olds in their many pursuits, like soccer and the arts. We've also had the opportunity to get to the mountains, including Eldora and Snowmass, and experienced some of the great hiking and birding and rafting Colorado has to offer.

Photo by **Glenn Asakawa**

Youth Violence Is Preventable. So Why Aren't We Preventing It?



By **Beverly Kingston**, PhD
director and senior research associate, Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, University of Colorado Boulder

We live in a society where youth violence is often viewed as inevitable. It's not.

Most people don't realize that we have decades of research and on-the-ground experience that demonstrates youth violence can be prevented.

Youth violence shows up in many forms — from bullying and fighting to gun violence and mass shootings. And while violent events that appear in the headlines may seem sudden, their roots are embedded in trauma, disconnection, inequality and lack of opportunity. These aren't "youth issues." They are reflections of our adult decisions and societal priorities.

Young people exposed to violence often face lifelong consequences, including higher rates of anxiety, depression, substance use and chronic health issues. Communities suffer, too. Violence undermines economic stability, widens inequities, and erodes trust. In the United States, youth violence costs an estimated $122 billion each year.

Effective violence prevention begins early and continues through childhood and adolescence. It builds strong local systems that reduce risk and strengthen support. These systems use evidence-based programs tailored to each community's needs, fill resource gaps, and reinforce what's already working on the ground.

At CU Boulder's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, we've partnered with schools and communities across Colorado and beyond to build prevention systems that work. In one recent effort in Denver, we saw a 75% reduction in youth arrests for violent crime using a science-backed, community-led approach.

Yet most funding goes to policing and incarceration, instead of investing in proven prevention strategies that can stop violence before it happens.

We need public understanding. We need political will. And we need to stop asking whether youth violence can be prevented — and start asking why we're not doing more to prevent it.

The solutions are here. The question is whether we'll use them.

Illustration by **Kara Fellows**

First Female Under Four

CU's Rodger Kram knows how the feat can occur.

By **Julia MacLean**

In June 2025, during a Nike-sponsored event, world champion and Kenyan middle- and long-distance runner Faith Kipyegon attempted to become the first woman to break the four-minute mile barrier. She finished just over the goal with a time of 4:06.42.

But a CU Boulder lab calculated that it is possible to break the four-minute barrier. CU physiologist Rodger Kram, who focuses on biomechanics involved with human locomotion, was part of the team that helped Kenyan long-distance runner Eliud Kipchoge historically break the two-hour marathon in 2019. While Kram was not directly involved in the Kipyegon attempt, his lab published a study earlier this year that found a champion runner like Kipyegon could clock a time of 3:59.37 under ideal conditions. Strategies include coordinated pacing and drafting, which involves a runner following closely behind pacers to reduce air resistance.

Kram and his team, Edson Soares da Silva, Wouter Hoogkamer and **Shalaya Kipp** (IntPhys'14; MS'17), also calculated that rotating pacers — runners who set a steady speed to help others reach a goal time and block the wind — could have provided an elite racer with just enough of an edge to dip under the barrier.

Nike's execution this year took a different approach.

"They used 13 pacers in a very unusual formation," said Kram. "Our model involved only two pacers at a time."

Still, Kram believes the four-minute mile barrier will fall.

"I still think it's possible, with two teams of female pacers who trade out halfway," he said.

Royal Society Open Science published Kram's study in February 2025.

What's next for Kram? "We're cooking up some outrageous next experiments," he said. "But they're top secret for now."

Christophe Ena/The Associated Press

↓ CU researchers believe a woman can run a four-minute mile.

Aspen Hospitality

Boulder Beat

Hotel Glow-Up on The Hill

By **Aimee Heckel**

Boulder has been the backdrop of nearly every milestone in my daughter Betty Anne's life. She was born at Boulder Community Hospital and raised on Pearl Street Mall; her dad pushed her up and down its brick paths while I juggled deadlines at the *Daily Camera*. As she grew, I taught her she was beautiful like the Flatirons — wild, magical, enduring. Now a high school sophomore, Betty dreams of going to CU Boulder, ready to trade her first steps as a toddler downtown for her first steps into adulthood on The Hill.

And as fate would have it, The Hill seems to be growing up alongside her. Two new hotels — the spirited Moxy and the freshly opened Limelight — are reimagining the neighborhood, not just as a late-night student hub, but as a destination for families, visitors and locals alike.

The Moxy Boulder, which opened May 2024 at 1247 Pleasant St., greets guests with cocktails at check-in and offers social spaces alive with music, trivia and the buzz of CU energy. It's as bold and welcoming as Boulder itself, with cozy rooms that encourage guests to drop their bags and leave to explore the city and nature. Michael DiMaria, operating partner, said the Moxy was designed to be "the living room" of The Hill neighborhood.

The Limelight Hotel and Conference Center, which opened its doors at 1295 University Ave. this August, brings one of the state's largest ballrooms, flexible gathering spaces and unobstructed views of the Flatirons. Even more fitting for its location: CU professor Wil Srubar's company, Prometheus Materials, provided sustainable cement for its construction.

Together, the Moxy and Limelight are helping revitalize The Hill year-round, giving surrounding businesses a boost even in the summer months when students scatter.

"This really helps reshape The Hill as a destination and a launching point, a focal point in addition to Pearl Street," said Joe Steiskel, property general manager.

For alumni returning after decades, these hotels offer something new: a welcoming home base just steps from campus.

For me, they offer the possibility that my sweet Betty's next milestones — move-in day, graduation, maybe even a wedding — might continue to be celebrated right here with the wild and magical Flatirons.

Growth can feel strange, but as Boulder teaches, strange can be beautiful, too.

Herd

A Leader in Free Speech

CU Boulder ranked fifth nationally for its free-speech climate, the highest in the state. The assessment, based on input from more than 68,000 students, comes from the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression and its survey partner College Pulse.

Authors Earn Spotlight

Historical horror novel *The Buffalo Hunter Hunter* by CU Boulder English professor Stephen Graham Jones made former President Obama's 2025 summer reading list. Meanwhile, Ann Schmiesing's *The Brothers Grimm: A Biography* earned acclaim as one of *The New Yorker*'s Best Books of 2024 and a *New Statesman* Best Summer Read of 2025. Schmiesing is senior vice chancellor for strategic initiatives and professor of German and Scandinavian Studies.

Water Reckoning

Emerging CU Boulder research shows that human pollution, including greenhouse gases and aerosol emissions, has been driving the prolonged megadrought in the U.S. Southwest by altering the Pacific Ocean's natural cycles that normally bring rain to the region. As a result, the Southwest is experiencing its driest period in over 1,000 years. Study author Jeremy Klavans, a postdoctoral researcher in the atmospheric and oceanic sciences department, suggests that water planners need to prepare now by building stronger water systems and exploring new options, such as desalination plants.

Campus Talk

"I want people to understand that a first-gen student like me — who didn't have much — can do it if you bring passion, grit and skills to the table."

— **Marco Campos** (CivEngr'98) and the Campos Foundation donated $5 million to support the Campos Student Center, formerly the BOLD Center, in the College of Engineering and Applied Science. The gift will secure the center's long-term future and bolster its programming to help amplify student success.

Photo by **Casey A. Cass**

Digits

Elimination of Plastic Single-Use Beverage Containers

7/7

→ Start of CU Boulder's elimination of plastic beverage containers from campus

100%

→ All single-use, sealable plastic beverage containers to be eliminated from campus, including vending machines

10yr

→ Pouring agreement with PepsiCo Beverages

325k

→ Plastic water bottles to be eliminated at Folsom Field in one year

0%

→ Intended percentage of campus emissions by year 2050, per the CU Climate Action Plan

↖ **Upper Left**
Grace Potter, "Desire Stone I," 2025, stoneware with clay slip

↗ **Upper Right**
Rebekah Myers and Tim Berg, "...in plain sight," 2025, glazed ceramic and maple

↙ **Center**
Ashley Jude Jonas, "sailing bare breasted with a gun," 2023, ceramic, strapping tape, found table, found wood

↘ **Bottom Right**
Liisa Nelson, "The Glorification of Signifiers," 2025, ceramic

↓ **Bottom**
Erica Green, "California King," 2022, knotted fibers on mattress

Look

Molding the Future

The ceramics program at CU Boulder has a long and storied history, shaped in part by the late Betty Woodman, a CU professor and master potter whose work garnered international acclaim in the 1970s. Woodman's work is displayed in prominent museums worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art. Her legacy endures through Scott Chamberlin, a former colleague, and two of her former students, Kim Dickey and Jeanne Quinn, who have taught together in the department for 25 years.

In September, the trio unveiled an alumni showcase exhibit: "Shaping Time: CU Ceramics Alumni 2000–2020." The exhibit is open to the public at the CU Art Museum until Dec. 19.

↗ To support the Betty Woodman Fund, visit **cubuffs.org/woodman**

Installation photos by Wes Magyar, © the artists and CU Art Museum

Cleared for Takeoff

In the Student Command Controller Program, an undergraduate missions operations program offered by the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP), CU Boulder students can train to become certified mission operators for NASA spacecraft. After learning the ropes through a summer course, students work on spacecraft missions that include telescopes and nanosatellites.

Kate Mulholland (AeroEngr'26) took a special interest in mission operations after watching the film *Apollo 13* at age 11. Now a command controller, she has the technical knowledge and confidence to handle complex tasks and high-stakes work.

"Being a part of the Command Controller Program is one of the most valuable experiences I have had since coming to CU Boulder," she said.

STUDENT MISSION CONTROL CENTER

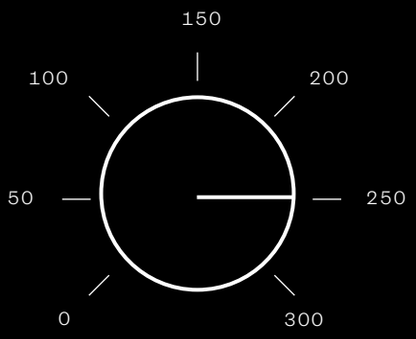
$ WORTH OF SPACECRAFT CONTROLLED BY STUDENTS

OBSERVE

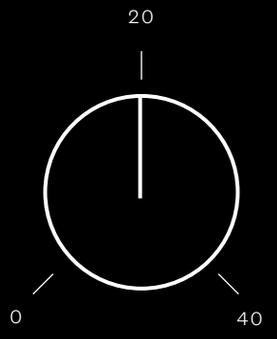
- Black holes
- Supernovas
- Solar wind
- Magnetic fields
- Exoplanets

TASKS

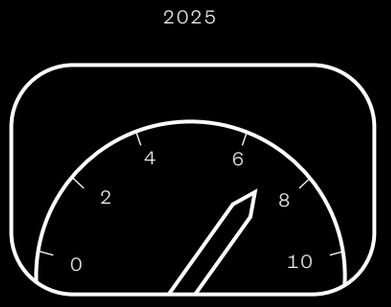
- Fine-tuning how spacecraft batteries charge
- Sending research plans to onboard instruments
- Powering mission equipment on and off
- Uploading files to increase instrument precision



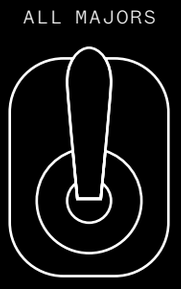
STUDENTS IN PROGRAM SINCE 1981



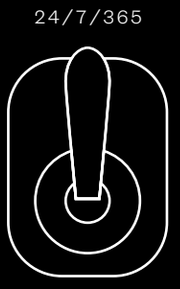
STUDENT HOURS DURING ACADEMIC YEAR



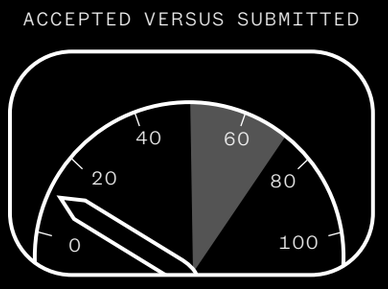
ON-ORBIT NASA PROJECTS THIS YEAR



MAJORS WELCOME IN PROGRAM

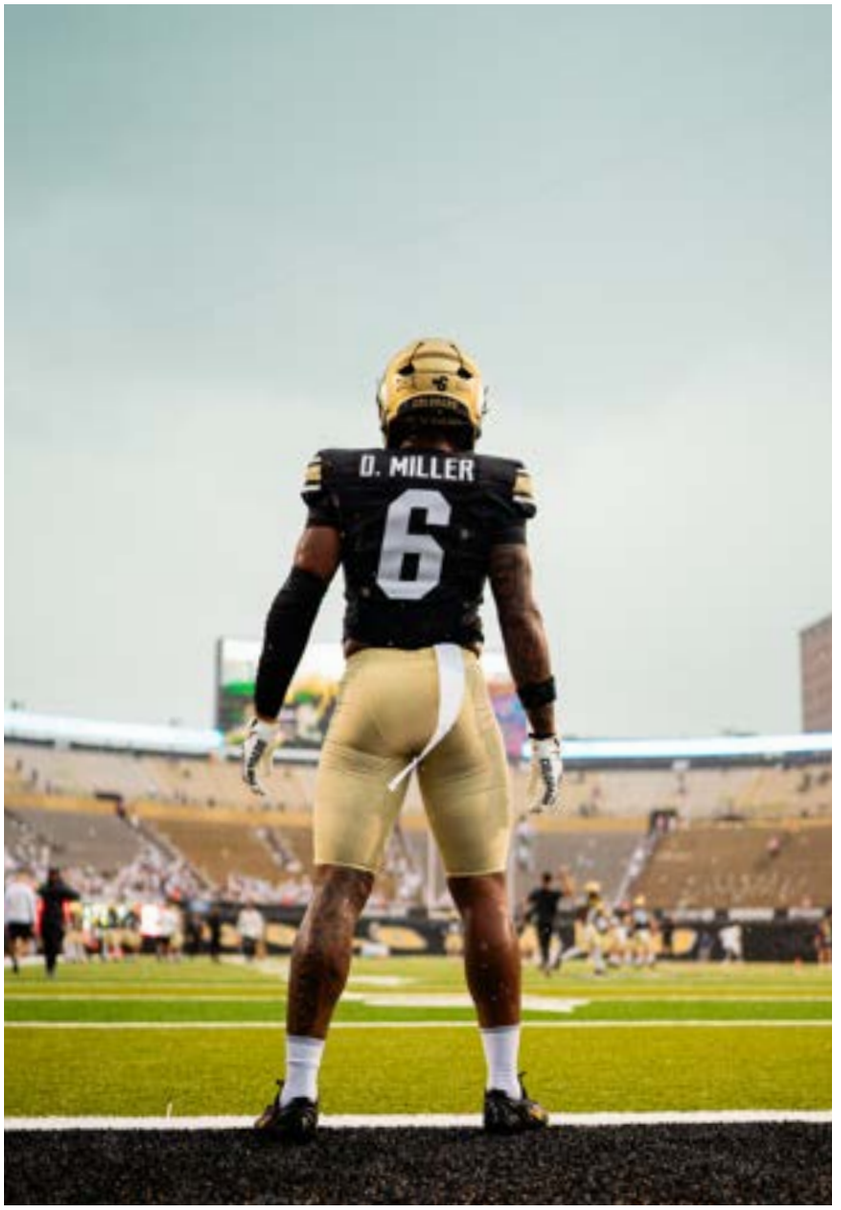


OPERATION TIME



APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Rundown



A New Era of NIL

"House case" settlement marks new ways to pay student-athletes.

By **Andrew Daigle**

On June 6, 2025, the NCAA settled three federal antitrust lawsuits, agreeing to pay $2.8 billion in back damages to former athletes. The settlement also allows universities to share up to $20.5 million from athletics' revenue annually with current student-athletes for their name, image and likeness (NIL) rights.

CU Boulder chose to share revenue, which means that for the first time, student-athletes can enter into a licensing agreement with CU Athletics. Each sport's revenue-share budget will be proportional to the revenue the sport generates, and the settlement also imposes roster limits for each team.

"I'm really proud that we didn't cut any sports, and we're going to provide the same benefits we've provided our student-athletes in the past," said athletic director Rick George.

According to George, CU Athletics plans to support its $20.5 million pledged revenue-share by consolidating expenses, offering programs like the Arch (which connects local businesses with student-athletes) and Buffs Premier (a fan loyalty program), adding a seventh home football game, and increasing events on Folsom Field's new turf.

Private NIL agreements remain separate, although a national clearinghouse will review anything above $600.

Exemplifying the effect of direct compensation, football's **Dre'Lon Miller** (Jour'28) has begun investing his earnings into his hometown of Silsbee, Texas.

He donated $1,000 each to four organizations that shaped him as a child, including his former school and church.

"I wanted to show them how much love I have for them," said Miller.

CU Athletics

→ Sports is now called Rundown
Coverage related to CU Athletics, including student-athletes, alumni and coaches.

Buff Bits

CU Athletics announced Ralphie VI's retirement in August. Ember ultimately showed "an indifference to running" and retired to ranch life alongside Ralphie V, Blackout. Ralphie VII, Brandy, made her debut at the CU vs. Wyoming game. ● In mid-October, the volleyball and soccer teams ranked in the top 25 nationally. Soccer surpassed its 300th win. Soccer's **Hope Leyba** (IntPhys'27) was named co-Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week in August. ● Cross country's **Isaiah Givens** (EnvSt'26) (15:01.99) and **Ella Hagen** (MCDBio'29) (17:54.34) led the Buffs with the top men's and women's 5-kilometer times at the season-opening Wyoming Invite. ● **Bill Collins** (Bus'70), CU's first full-season Black football captain, died on July 31. ● Men's basketball completed a four-game exhibition tour of Australia

■ Coach Talk

"Wins are fantastic, losses happen, but being a part of this program for as long as I have is really special."

– **Volleyball head coach Jesse Mahoney** (Psych'95; Law'99) after the Buffs defeated University of Denver in September, his 150th win at Colorado.

Scores

28
→
Men's golf three-round third-place score at the Washington State Palouse Collegiate.

10
→
Tackles by the Los Angeles Rams' **Nate Landman** (Mktg'21) against the Houston Texans in week 1.

16
→
Straight sets won by volleyball to open the 2025 season.

62
→
CU Boulder student-athletes named to the 2025 Big 12 Conference Spring Academic Team.

145k
→
Pounds of CO_2 kept out of the air by Folsom Field's new turf made with pine pellets instead of traditional rubber pellets.

↑ JR Payne encourages confidence, capability and competence.

Photo by **Casey A. Cass**

Rundown

Standard of Excellence

2025–26 marks JR Payne's 10th season as Colorado women's basketball head coach. Following NCAA Tournament appearances in three of the past four years, she reflects on high expectations, discipline, toughness and working together as a family.

Interview by **Andrew Daigle**

How would you describe the identity of your team? Everywhere my husband [associate head coach Toriano Towns] and I have been, we've taken over struggling programs and turned them into championship contenders. The foundation of everything is that we want to be the hardest working, toughest and most disciplined team in the country. If we play to those standards, we can compete on any night.

Last season was Colorado's first back in the Big 12 after 13 years in the Pac-12. What did this conference change mean for your squad? In the Pac-12, we had Friday and Sunday games. Then Monday off and back to practice on Tuesday. We got into a rhythm. The Big 12 is mostly Wednesday and Saturday games. When you don't have that extra lead-up to the week's first game, you need to go right into scouting your next opponent. The one thing I don't like is that we only play three teams twice. It's hard to build rivalries with just one game.

You've established a culture of excellence for CU women's basketball. How does your team deal with elevated expectations and national attention? There isn't anyone in the country who can place higher expectations on us than we put on ourselves.

Who has had a lasting impact on your leadership style? Kelly Graves, Oregon women's basketball head coach, was my college coach at St. Mary's. I played two years for him and was an assistant coach for him at Gonzaga for my first five years of coaching. A lot of what I know — both Xs and Os and leadership outside of basketball — comes from him. One of the greatest lessons I learned was when Kelly told me, 'JR, you can be a great coach, a great mom, a great wife. Don't let anybody tell you you have to sacrifice one for the other.' I've always carried that with me.

Time and again, players say this team is a family. What does that mean to you? Families are the best, but they take a lot of work. We take pride in being very authentic in what we do, how we recruit, how we operate when something's wrong. These young women come to us as 17- or 18-year-old kids leaving home for the first time. That can mean a lot of discomfort, but also a lot of potential for growth. When they leave our program, we want them to be confident, capable, competent women who can take on the world.

What are CU's biggest strengths in recruiting? Our players truly get better. **Mya Hollingshed** (Comm'22), the highest draft pick in the history of our program at number eight, had one other offer. **Jaylyn Sherrod** (Soc'22, MSOL'23, MCJ'24), now in the WNBA, had just a couple other offers. I love my players on their best days, but also support and challenge them on their worst days. I don't know how common that is at this level.

How have the transfer portal and name, image and likeness (NIL) affected your program? College athletes should be able to profit off NIL. There are certainly opportunities to participate in NIL here, but if you're only looking at Colorado women's basketball because you think we have a lot of money, this isn't the place for you. That's not what we're about.

What's something surprising that fans might not know about you? I did ballet all the way up until college. I had a solo in the *Nutcracker* my senior year of high school. My toe shoes were dyed red. I still have them! I would break my neck if I tried to do it again.

What excites you most about this season? It's going to be a fun team. Our staff worked so hard this spring and signed great new players. We went beyond filling positional needs — asking questions to find players who value comradery, authenticity, accountability. We're electric and athletic, and we're going to fly in transition.

BUFFS PREMIER

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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- Behind-the-Scenes Content
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University of Colorado **Boulder**

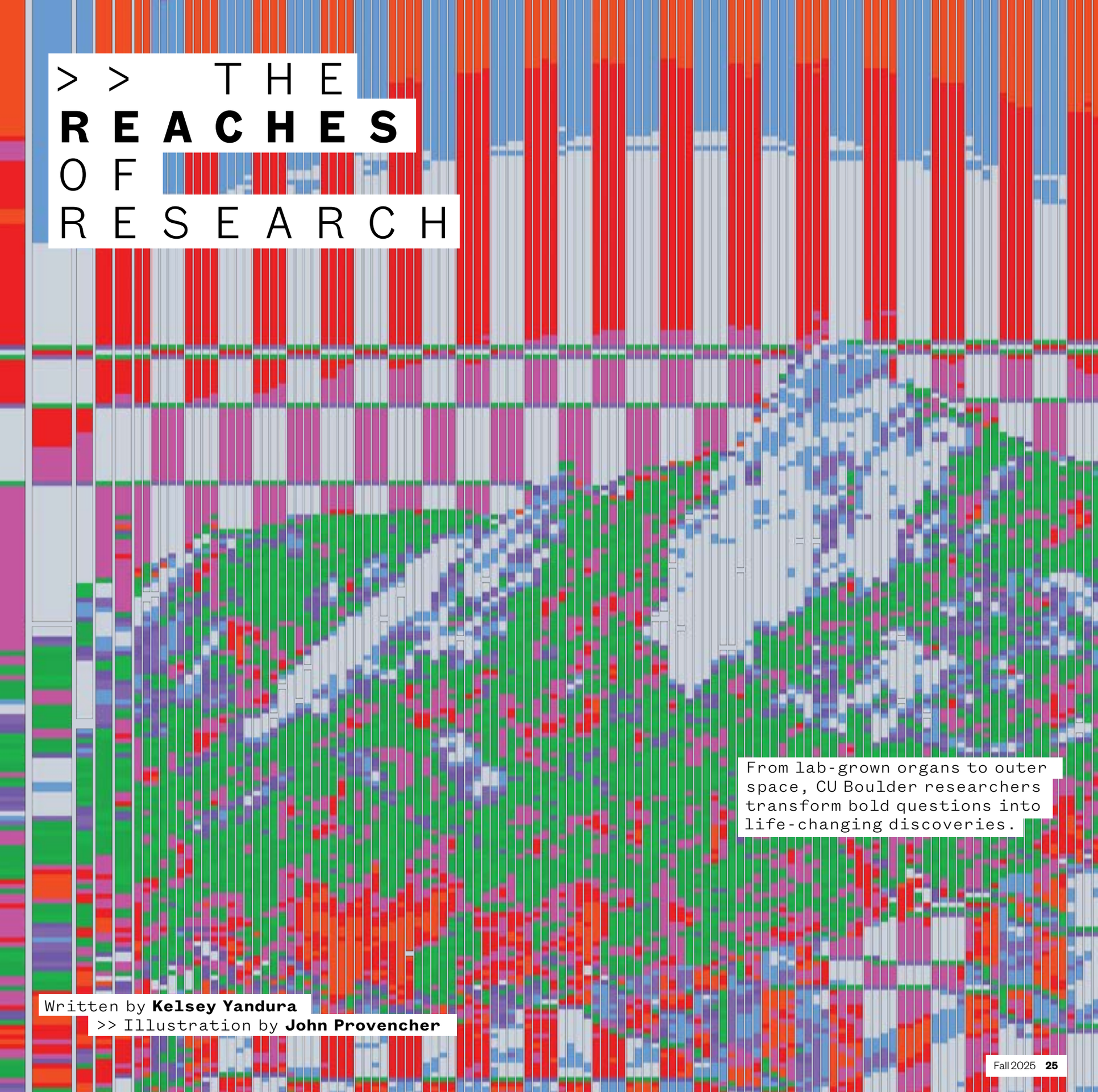
BUFFS ALL IN!

CU Boulder's giving day is back on March 31, 2026.

Are you all in?

Learn more

>> THE REACHES OF RESEARCH



From lab-grown organs to outer space, CU Boulder researchers transform bold questions into life-changing discoveries.

Written by **Kelsey Yandura**

>> Illustration by **John Provencher**

AT ITS CORE, RESEARCH IS THE DISCIPLINED PURSUIT OF A SINGLE QUESTION

>> WHAT IF?

At A Glance

>>One of 38 U.S. public research institutions in the Association of American Universities

>>5 Nobel Laureates since 1989

>>Only university to send space instruments to every planet in the solar system

>>12 research-based institutes and 75+ centers

>> 3,000+ faculty, researchers, students and staff support the institutes

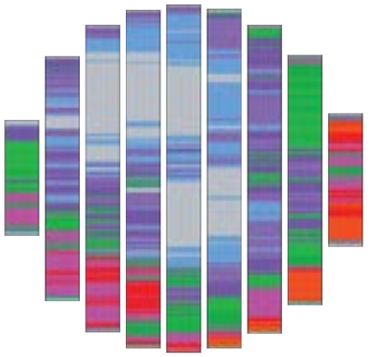
What if measuring space dust could tell us something about our place in the cosmos?

What if we could grow whole human organs from just a few cells?

What if we could transform plastic into fertilizer?

These are the kinds of questions driving work within and among CU Boulder's 12 research institutes and more than 75 research centers, employing 3,000 researchers, students and staff whose fields span environmental studies to cognitive science. In 2024, their work contributed to more than $742 million in research support, including nearly $500 million in federal funding.

When paired with time, attention, resources and a serious tolerance for failure, these seeds of curiosity can develop into something revolutionary, sometimes well beyond their original vision. And while some of the finer points may be hard to grasp, the reach of this research is not abstract — it can be traced, quite literally, through the layers of our world. It moves inward, reshaping the delicate architecture of the human body. It arcs out into space, collecting data from distant planets. It extends downward, into the soil and water systems that sustain our ecosystem.



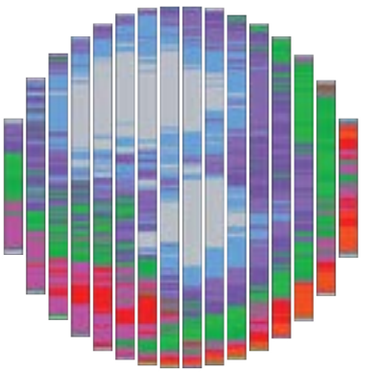
To capture even a hint of the scope of research taking place at CU Boulder, we explore three different research projects that showcase a unique dimension of impact, both on campus and beyond.

Exploring New Horizons <LASP>

When it comes to measuring the reach of research, the vision behind the New Horizons mission has always been far-flung.

Launched in 2006, the New Horizons spacecraft spent nine years hurtling through the darkest reaches of our solar system to capture the first-ever recorded glimpse of Pluto and its moons up close.

"The expectation was that it was going to be a boring chunk of dark ice," said Mihály Horányi, physics professor and Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) scientist. "But we were in for a big surprise. It's very active. It has flat regions, mountain regions and floating icebergs…all kinds of unexpected things."



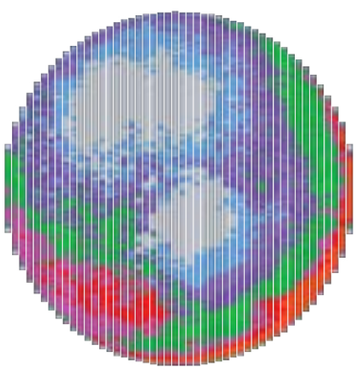
But for New Horizons, Pluto was just the beginning. The spacecraft pressed deeper into space. In 2019, the Hubble Space Telescope onboard captured what would become the most distant and primitive object yet to be explored by a spacecraft: a reddish, oddly snowman-shaped object called Arrokoth. Nothing like it has been found anywhere else in the solar system.

And it's still going. As of October 2024, New Horizons passed 60 times as far from the Sun as Earth is — twice as far out as Pluto was in 2015.

But the reach of New Horizons takes on another dimension than just physical distance. Onboard the spacecraft is nestled a device called the Student Dust Counter (SDC), the first NASA science instrument ever designed, built, tested and operated almost entirely by students. Its impact has been both interstellar and interpersonal.

"At the time, the idea was unconventional," explained Horányi, who has served as the instrument's principal investigator for more than two decades.

Approval required long rounds of advocacy up and down NASA's decision-making chain. The condition? Students would be held to the same rigorous standards as the professionals.



From the outset, students at CU rose to the challenge. In 2002, about 20 students (both undergrad and graduate) worked to design, engineer and build every piece of the dust counter, from building to testing to calibration.

When the time came for delivery and testing, the SDC was the first instrument completed and delivered to New Horizons. It underwent the same demanding NASA design reviews as veteran instrument teams.

"Sometimes," recalled Horányi, "the stu-

Journey of New Horizons

```
  >>Past
2006 _ Launch
2015 _ Pluto flyby
2019 _ Arrokoth flyby
2024 _ 60 AU milestone

  >>Future
2050 _ Edge of heliosphere

  >>The onboard Student
Dust Counter is the
farthest-operating dust
detector in history
```

dents performed better than the professionals."

Today, the spacecraft is over 60 astronomical units from the Sun — more than 5.5 billion miles away — making SDC the farthest-operating dust detector in history. And it is still operated by students.

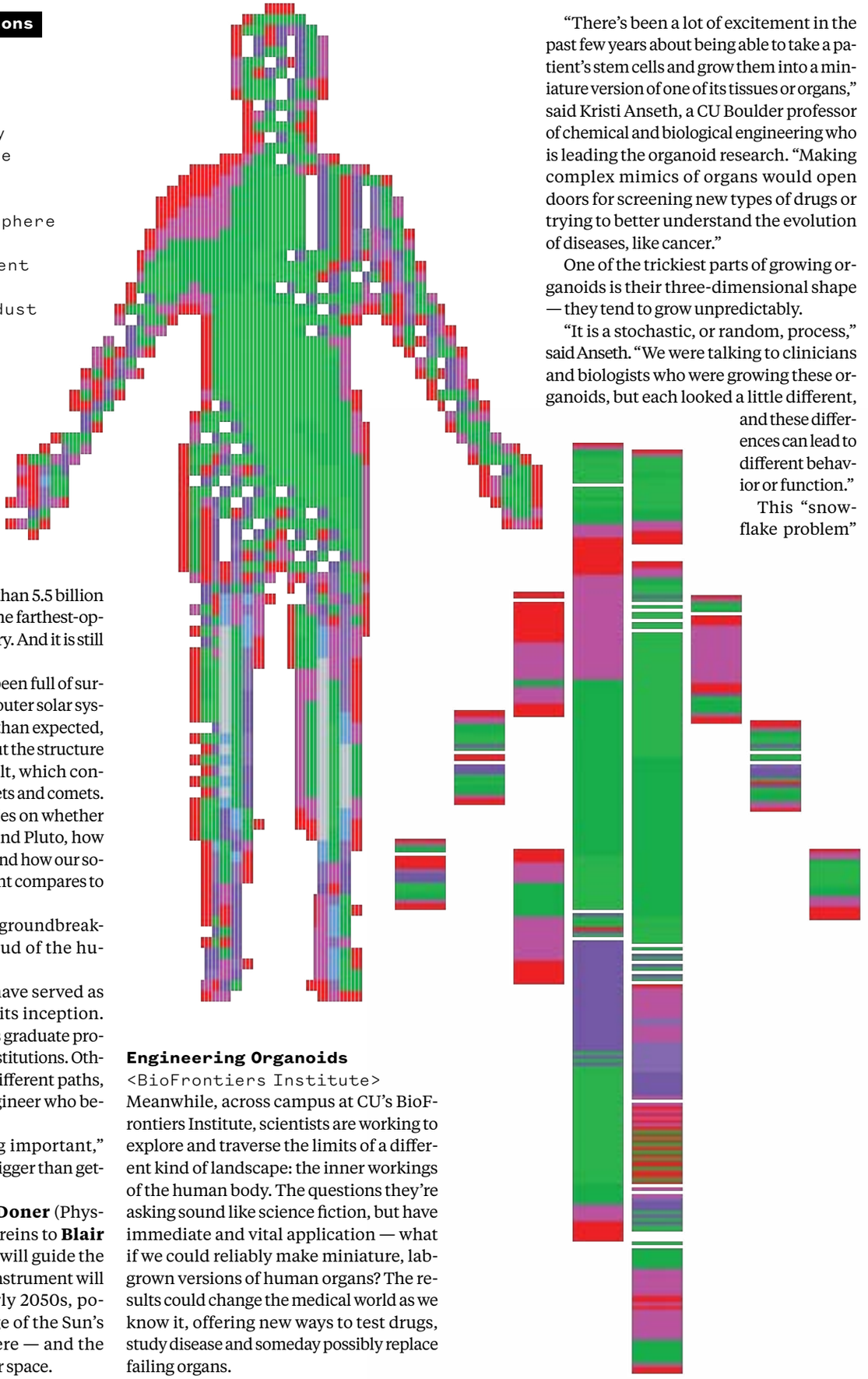
The measurements have been full of surprises. Dust densities in the outer solar system turned out to be higher than expected, prompting new debates about the structure and extent of the Kuiper Belt, which contains Pluto, other dwarf planets and comets. SDC data now informs studies on whether there's a "second belt" beyond Pluto, how far the Kuiper Belt extends, and how our solar system's dust environment compares to those around other stars.

And while the science is groundbreaking, Horányi is just as proud of the human impact.

More than 30 students have served as SDC team members since its inception. Many went on to prestigious graduate programs and major research institutions. Others have followed entirely different paths, including one electrical engineer who became a Buddhist priest.

"They all did something important," Horányi said. "Something bigger than getting an A in a class."

The current lead, **Alex Doner** (Physics'26), will soon hand the reins to **Blair Schultz** (Physics'28), who will guide the mission's next phase. The instrument will likely operate into the early 2050s, potentially detecting the edge of the Sun's influence — the heliosphere — and the transition to true interstellar space.



Engineering Organoids

<BioFrontiers Institute>

Meanwhile, across campus at CU's BioFrontiers Institute, scientists are working to explore and traverse the limits of a different kind of landscape: the inner workings of the human body. The questions they're asking sound like science fiction, but have immediate and vital application — what if we could reliably make miniature, lab-grown versions of human organs? The results could change the medical world as we know it, offering new ways to test drugs, study disease and someday possibly replace failing organs.

"There's been a lot of excitement in the past few years about being able to take a patient's stem cells and grow them into a miniature version of one of its tissues or organs," said Kristi Anseth, a CU Boulder professor of chemical and biological engineering who is leading the organoid research. "Making complex mimics of organs would open doors for screening new types of drugs or trying to better understand the evolution of diseases, like cancer."

One of the trickiest parts of growing organoids is their three-dimensional shape — they tend to grow unpredictably.

"It is a stochastic, or random, process," said Anseth. "We were talking to clinicians and biologists who were growing these organoids, but each looked a little different, and these differences can lead to different behavior or function."

This "snowflake problem" has been a major roadblock against some of the most exciting possibilities of organoid research — transplants, for example, wouldn't work if the organ couldn't be reliably grown to fit the patient.

"It's time to start solving the more complicated problems."

[Kristi Anseth, CU Boulder professor of chemical and biological engineering, who received the National Academy of Engineering's 2025 Simon Ramo Founders Award]

Anseth's team, in collaboration with stem cell biologist professor Peter Dempsey at the Anschutz Medical Campus, set out to make this random process into a predictable one, designing biomaterials — specifically, highly tunable hydrogels — that serve as scaffolds for these cells to grow in three dimensions.

"Being engineers, we thought, 'Well, it's going to be really important for the usefulness of these [organs] to make them the same way.'"

They started with the human intestine, where these hydrogel scaffolds successfully helped guide organoid growth into precise, reproducible sizes and shapes. That consistency means researchers can run large-scale, apples-to-apples experiments in a way that's reliable enough for both science and medicine.

Organoids

```
Miniature versions of human
organs grown from stem cells
in labs

  >>Goal
Improve and save lives by
targeting complex diseases
in vital organs

  >>Uses
Drug testing, disease
modeling,
regenerative medicine

  >>Challenges
Inconsistency in shape,
behavior and function
```

"We're taking something that's been unpredictable and making it precise, scalable and useful," said Anseth. "You could use it to screen for new ways to deliver drugs. Wouldn't it be great if you could take more drugs orally? Or get diagnosed at an earlier age?"

And while the team has made exciting progress, the crux of this work is still on the horizon. The ultimate goal of creating full-size replacement organs from organoids is likely years away.

"Now, we're thinking of all the 'what if's,'" said Anseth. "It's time to start solving the more complicated problems."

For now, Anseth's "mini-intestines" are helping illuminate a path toward more efficient drug testing and more accurate disease models. But she sees this as just the beginning.

"We already have ways to repair cartilage, to heal bones faster — things that didn't exist a decade ago," she says. "Now, the next direction is targeting complex diseases that happen in our hearts, our brains, our livers. That's the promise of organoids…We'll find interventions that can both improve and save lives."

Plastics to Fertilizer

<ATLAS Institute>

At CU's interdisciplinary ATLAS Institute, researcher and assistant professor Carson Bruns is proving that the insights gleaned from the tiniest of molecules can change the very ground beneath our feet.

At Bruns' Laboratory for Emergent Nanomaterials, the building blocks get the spotlight. By examining and structuring materials at very small scales, the team designs what he calls "molecular machinery" — new materials that, when scaled up, have the potential to display novel properties and functions.

Currently, thanks to a Research & Innovation Seed Grant, the team is applying these methods to one of the most controversial materials of our time: plastics.

From grocery bags to medical packaging, petroleum-based plastics are woven into nearly every aspect of modern life. But their convenience comes at a staggering cost.

"I believe we're in a plastics crisis," said Bruns. "We need to shift to a new paradigm, and the more people working on solutions, the better."

Bruns explained that microplastics show up everywhere, even in human tissue. Plus, most plastics, even the "greener" compostable ones, are carbon-based — which means that, upon breaking down, they release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Most also require specialized, high-temperature industrial composting facilities to break down properly. In Boulder, these shortcomings prompted the city's main composting partner, A1 Organics, to stop accepting biodegradable plastics altogether.

"Our aim is to create plastics that can safely biodegrade — eliminating the microplastics problem — but without heavy CO2 emissions," said Bruns.

True to nanoengineering form, the team is rethinking the entire process, starting with source materials.

"We're looking at agricultural waste as a raw material source," said Bruns. By using runoff from vegetable washing or ash from burned plant matter, these new and improved plastics would biodegrade into elements like nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfur that already have value in the soil, releasing minimal carbon dioxide. The solution is cost efficient, to boot.

"We know how to make high-performance plastics, but they're too expensive to scale," said Bruns. "Our goal is to make eco-friendly plastics that are as strong, tough and flexible as petroleum plastics."

This research is still in its early stages, and collaboration has been key. To test biodegradability and soil impact, Bruns partnered with ecology professor Merritt R. Turetsky, director of arctic security. This cross-disciplinary work — melding nanotechnology, materials science and environmental biology — has already yielded promising early results.

"I'm excited about the collaboration," said Bruns. "I think this problem requires many perspectives. Nobody can solve it alone, so working together across fields is really energizing."

The team's goal for the 18-month grant period is to develop at least one material that not only holds up in everyday use, but also demonstrably fertilizes soil. If successful, the applications could range from packaging films and plastic bags to plates, utensils and even foams that mimic Styrofoam.

In the long term, Bruns envisions a circular system: after use, the plastic could enter a specialized recycling stream for processing into fertilizer — or, ideally, degrade naturally in a backyard compost heap. Either way, it would close the loop between creation and decomposition, consumption and renewal.

"It's about finding a better ending for these materials," he said. "If we can make something useful in life and beneficial in death, that's a win for both people and the planet."

Our Shared Future

"My little part today, or this week or this month, is part of a bigger picture," said **Andrew Poppe** (Phys'06; PhD'11) a research scientist at the Space Sciences Laboratory at the University of California Berkeley who worked on the Student Dust Counter as both an undergraduate and graduate student.

"Do we want to be the type of society that just wakes up in the morning, goes to work, does the work, comes home, has dinner and repeats? Or do we want to be the type of society that is naturally curious about the world around us, whether that is the smallest things you put under a microscope or the biggest things that you can see through a telescope?"

These research projects are just a glimpse into the scope and scale of innovation taking place around campus. Individually, each has its own trajectory of impact. Together, they create a mosaic of possibilities for our shared future.

The Plastics Problem

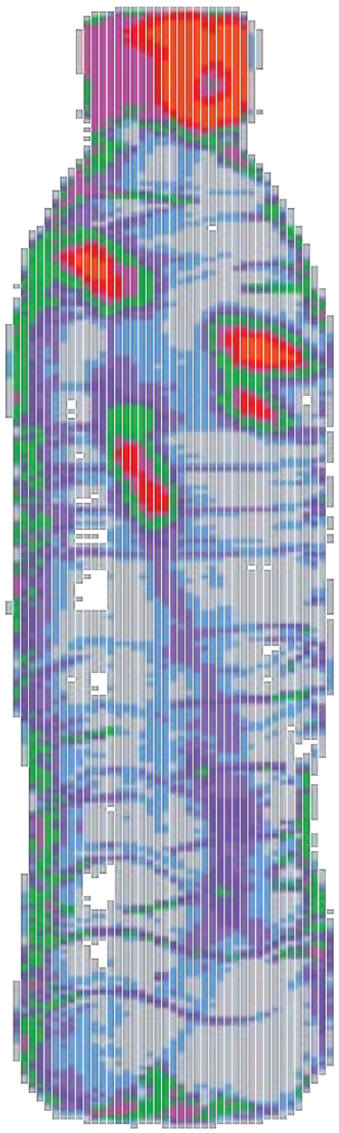
>> Part of nearly every aspect of modern life

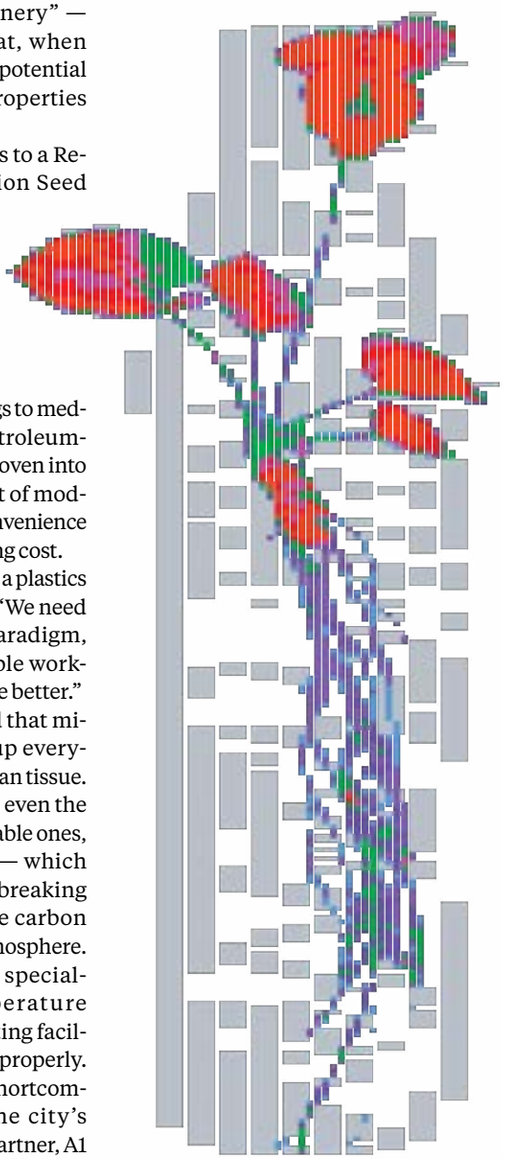
>> 400M+ tons produced globally each year

>> About 11M tons end up in lakes, rivers and streams annually

>> Microplastics found in human tissue, oceans and soil

>> Most compostable plastics require industrial facilities





In Action

Well-Being

Colorado isn't just a basecamp for outdoor adventures. Through programs, classes and unique events, CU Boulder serves as a basecamp for student wellness journeys.

By Christie Sounart

Photos by Glenn Asakawa

On a clear, 60-degree night in mid-August, 40 incoming first-year students slept under the stars. The Flatirons were visible, but not from a wilderness perspective. Instead, dozens of sleeping bags dotted the roof of the CU Rec Center.

The group was taking part in CU in the Rockies, a pre-semester trip with the CU Rec Center's Outdoor Pursuits program. The students used the night to practice camping with their gear before embarking on a backpacking trip in State Forest State Park, located about 110 miles northwest of campus. Few knew each other.

When they returned a week later, many had forged close friendships in the mountains.

"What I've seen is people eventually live together, do dinners, hang out," said **Sammy Fitterman** (Geog'26), who has served as a trip leader and student medical support over the last three years. "When you're camping with someone and sharing a tent, you really get close."

The experience offered the students immediate, meaningful connections. As they started their college careers and pursued avenues for physical and mental wellness, they could choose more activities like it — or something completely different.

Well-Being First

Well-being is a top priority for the university. In 2023, CU Boulder adopted the Okanagan Charter, which strengthened efforts to embed health and wellness into all aspects of university life. And, in spring 2025, Chancellor Justin Schwartz announced the Student Mental Health, Wellness and Flourishing Initiative to strengthen programs and policies to further help students thrive.

Through the student health and well-being unit within the university's Division of Student Life, students can engage in everything from mental health workshops and peer wellness coaching to a collegiate recovery community. And through options like Outdoor Pursuits and the Rec Center's FitWell program, students can pursue wellness in nature-based or exercise-focused experiences.

"We know students show up to college wanting to live a full and meaningful life," said Amanda Scates-Preisinger, director of the university's Health Promotion office. "It's important they have access to information and experiences that help continually build skills to support their well-being."

Climbing, Backcountry Skiing — and Dessert

Fitterman, a senior, became involved with Outdoor Pursuits after a CU climbing trip as a first-year student. Now he runs workshops — such as ski and snowboard wax classes — and works at the rec center's climbing gym and gear rental center, which equips interested students with outdoor gear ranging from tents and hiking poles to rain jackets and headlamps.

He also is president of the CU Backcountry Club, which organizes about six student backcountry skiing trips in Colorado mountain towns during the spring semester.

"We stay in an AirBnB and cook family-style dinners for everyone," said Fitterman, who's from Santa Monica, California. "Those weekend trips are a really great opportunity to connect."

During his first year at CU, **Aidan Azar** (ElEngr'27), from Philadelphia, went on the CU in the Rockies trip with Fitterman. He quickly jumped at the chance to join Outdoor Pursuits' student board, eager to connect with other Buffs in nature.

"I came to Colorado to try something new," he said. "I loved the outdoors and the mountains, and when I went on that trip, I met some of my best friends."

Last spring, Azar led a workshop on backcountry cooking. The theme was desserts, and the class made funnel cakes out of pancake batter to minimize the amount of ingredients and equipment that would be hauled through the forest on a backcountry camping trip. He said this type of enjoyment takes priority over his rigorous engineering schedule.

"I make sure I'm setting specific times to climb or hike with my friends, even in the middle of a busy week," he said.

Anya Keena (Anth, Geol'26), from Detroit, finds her outdoor community helps her "let loose" after days in the geology library. Though she and her friends are in different majors, they have bonded over a shared love of the outdoors. When she came to CU, she was afraid of heights, but now she finds herself rock climbing regularly after learning skills of the sport with other climbing students. She also enjoys hiking and completed a wilderness first responder course last summer.

Well-being is a top priority for CU Boulder. From rock climbing to backpacking, students can join active communities on campus.

"We don't have a ton of things connecting us academically," she said. "I'm always interested to hear about what they're doing, but at the end of the day, the thing that connects us is the outdoor curiosity."

Events for Connection

Sometimes a one-off event can bring students mental or physical respite from their daily grind.

Sarah Laughlin (IntPhys, Soc'26), from Newton, Massachusetts, works for CU's Health Promotion office, where she helps plan student events focused on physical, emotional, financial or spiritual well-being. Last spring, for instance, she helped coordinate a 120-person spa night that included nail painting, aromatherapy and plant-related crafts.

Other events included late-night sober party alternatives and a "non-violent rage room," Laughlin said, where students could draw on walls or throw colorful streamers.

"You get students who are just passing by, or people who hear about them and are so grateful to do these things for free," said Laughlin.

Laughlin, who hopes for a career in public health, said her favorite wellness outlet is playing for CU's Ultimate Frisbee sport club team, one of 30 teams offered through the university's Sport Club program.

Each spring, the CU Rec Center offers goat yoga sessions to help students unwind during a busy time of year. It is a favorite for many, including for Treyanna Brown, bottom left.

Goats and Giggles

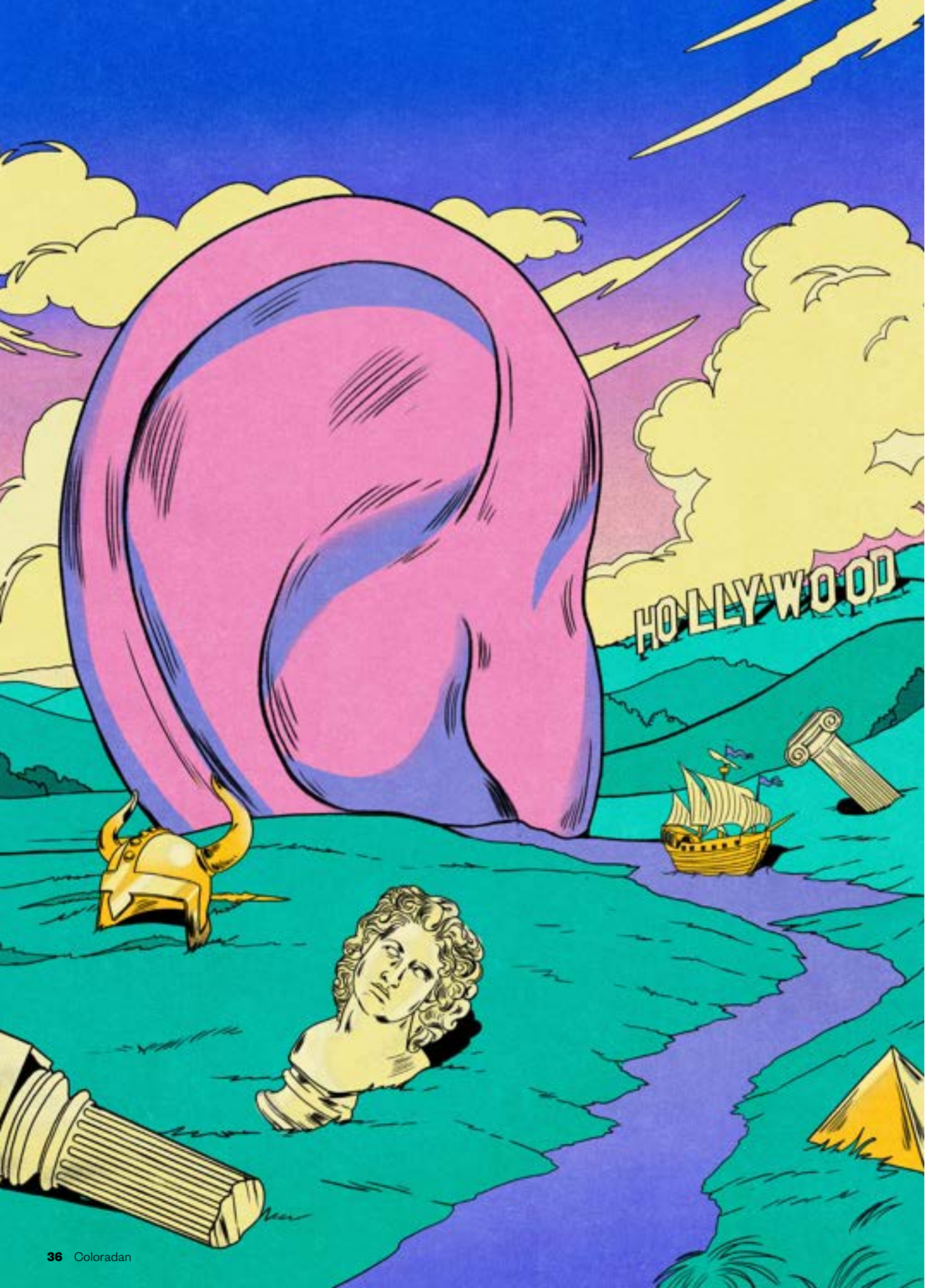
Sometimes, though, wellness simply is fostered through an hour of spontaneous giggles — and animal snuggles.

Each spring, CU Rec Center student employee **Treyanna Brown** (CompSci'27), who is from Albuquerque, plans her favorite student event on campus: goat yoga. Brown loves carrying the two-week-old goats from their farm's truck to the rec center yoga room, bottle feeding them, and giving them extra cuddles once they get sleepy after the yoga sessions.

The four-session event, which often serves around 30 people per session, is less about yoga and more about joy, Brown said.

"It's a really good stress-reliever," she said. "You can't be thinking about everything you need to get done because you have a baby goat in your lap."

Beyond the laughter, friendships and long list of new things to try, CU Boulder proves the path to wellness can be fun — and meaningful.

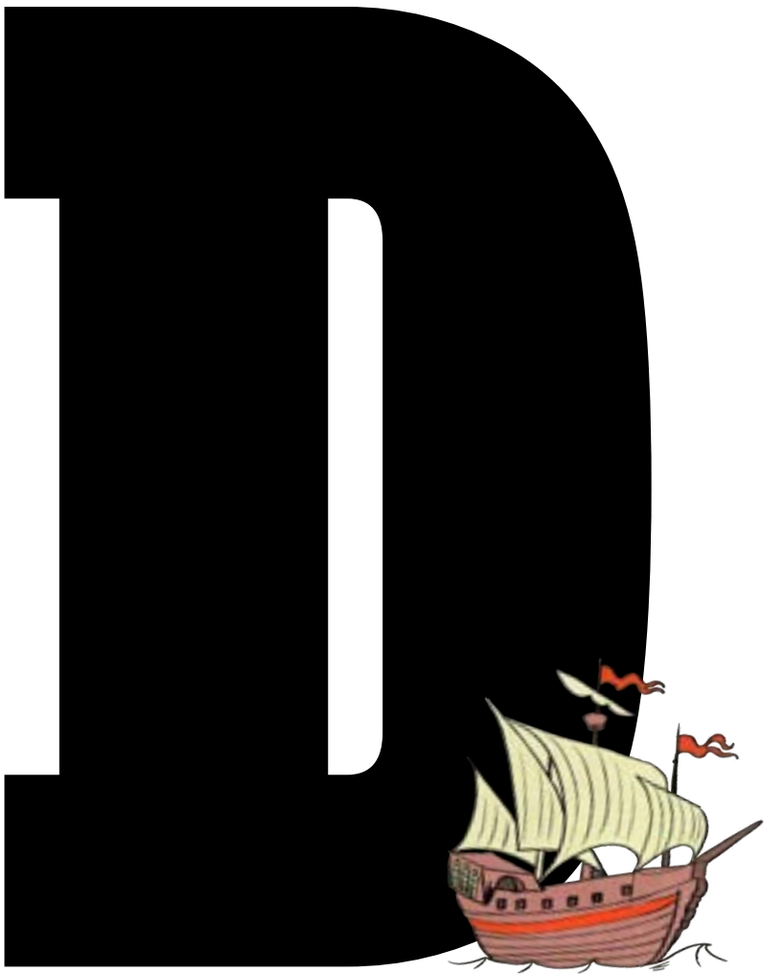


The Ultimate Time Traveler

Podcast pioneer Dan Carlin puts his listeners on the sidelines of pivotal historic moments.

By Tori Peglar

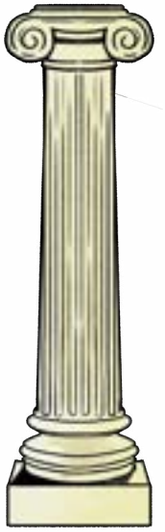
Illustrations by María Jesús Contreras



Dan Carlin (Hist'89) is 4 minutes and 41 seconds into an episode of his *Hardcore History* podcast when he pauses to catch his breath. Alexander the Great has just watched his father, King Phillip II, get assassinated. It's a milestone moment that Carlin likens to the 9/11 attacks, where anyone watching knew in those terrifying moments that everything would change.

Beyond the walls of his podcasting studio, Carlin's millions of listeners wait expectantly at the edge of their proverbial seats. Was Alexander a victim, innocently watching the assassination of his royal father in the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon? Or was Alexander a traitor who orchestrated his father's death to seize the throne? Carlin's audience ponders this question as they drive through their neighborhoods, prepare dinner in their kitchens, and jog through parks, all while listening to Carlin.

"Dan Carlin is one of the world's greatest storytellers, and anyone who has spent any time listening to his audio, even for a few minutes, understands that this is the case," said Clint Kisker, an entrepreneur and former president of MWM Interactive, an entertainment company that has collaborated with Carlin.



"History functions as humanity's collective memory and the means for understanding the consequences of human choices."

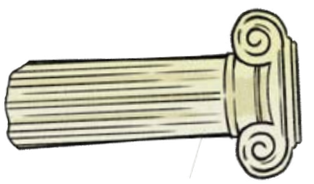
A trailblazer in the podcasting space, Carlin was part of the early crowd of people in 2005 to tell stories about history via the Internet in an audio format. In the 20 years since, more than 100 million people have tuned into his tremendously popular shows. In *Common Sense*, Carlin, a self-described politically independent pragmatist, looks at events shaping the world. *Hardcore History* delves into riveting historic moments, and *Hardcore History: Addendum* features interviews and material that don't make it into the main program.

For Carlin, who's disarmingly gregarious and humble, a knowledge of history and its cast of characters is essential for understanding the present moment. Moreover, he said it enables us to see how groups of human beings tend to behave, especially under pressure.

"Life, as someone once said to me, is like living inside a television soap opera," Carlin recalled. "If you don't go back and watch the previous episodes, you'll never understand what's going on — or why — in the story currently."

Path to Podcasting

In his 20s, Carlin worked in broadcast television in Los Angeles before moving to Oregon and becoming a television reporter, then a radio show host. But when the tech version of the Gold Rush began in the late 1990s, he and five friends formed a startup. The goal was to launch a novel product — amateur content made by the public and hosted on a platform. It would have been something like what YouTube turned out to be. After he left the startup, what Carlin eventually produced was a podcast, but it wasn't recognized as such yet.



In 2004, the term "podcast" first appeared in print when *Guardian* reporter Ben Hammerstein used it to describe a new type of audio blogging that could be played on an Apple iPod. The origins of the word? A mash-up of "iPod" and "broadcast."

Plunging into new territory, Carlin launched his *Common Sense* podcast in 2005, followed by *Hardcore History* a year later. The *Hardcore History* format is unique, even by today's standards.

"Podcasters doing true crime or sports entertainment are all folks who took an existing medium and adapted it to meet their needs," Kisker said. "Dan created a medium. There was no prior 'Dan Carlin.' It wasn't a thing."

Each of Carlin's *Hardcore History* episodes is an extraordinarily deep dive into a slice of history — and because he spends an inordinate amount of time researching, he only releases one to two episodes a year. Each one runs between three and five hours.

Carlin's show takes on a conversational dimension as he doesn't prepare a written script — his storytelling style is all improv. Episodes include the famous World War II battles that shaped modern naval warfare, the Atlantic slave trade, the Asia-Pacific War of 1937–45 and the Viking sea kings of the 10th and 11th centuries.

"Every show is on a subject I've been really interested in, so I have a foundation," Carlin said. "Then I start reading, so I'm trying to

Dan's Favorite Episodes

"Blueprint for Armageddon"
A six-part exploration of World War I that immerses listeners in the human experience, chaos and unprecedented scale of the first modern global war.

"Supernova in the East"
A six-part chronicle of Japan's rise and ruin in World War II, tracing how cultural pride, militarism and desperation led to one of history's most ferocious conflicts.

"Ghosts of the Ostfront"
A look at the Eastern Front of World War II, where Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union waged a merciless fight for survival.

"The Destroyer of Worlds"
An exploration of the birth of the nuclear age and the uneasy moment when humanity gained the power to erase itself.

"Death Throes of the Republic"
A retelling of Rome's unraveling — from civic virtue to corruption and civil war — as a republic gives way to empire.

update my knowledge — what's true, how history has evolved and become clarified over time."

But Carlin doesn't just regurgitate important dates on his podcasts. He uses empathy to slingshot his listeners back in time, making people like Alexander the Great fallibly human and their decisions topically relevant. In doing so, his audience stands on the sidelines of pivotal historic moments, cheering and jeering on characters they once knew only by name but now feel a personal connection to.

"Empathy for historical personalities is vital if we want to try to see them more as three-dimensional figures rather than two-dimensional ones," Carlin said. "Put yourself into the shoes of President Harry Truman having to make the decision about dropping atomic bombs in the Second World War. How could you even begin to assess such an event without trying to imagine yourself in his position?"

Having an empathetic understanding of the human experience is essential to help us navigate our complex world, said William Wei, one of Carlin's CU Boulder history professors and a former Colorado state historian.

"As historians have demonstrated since time immemorial, history functions as humanity's collective memory and the means for understanding the consequences of human choices," Wei said.

At Home in Hollywood

Carlin grew up on the edges of Hollywood's golden spotlight. His mother earned an

"Empathy for historical personalities is vital if we want to try to see them more as three-dimensional figures rather than two-dimensional ones."

Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress in the 1968 film *Faces*. His father, Ed Carlin, was a movie producer. Carlin spent his childhood in two towns at opposite ends of the San Fernando Valley — first Toluca Lake, then Calabasas. Back then, Toluca Lake was home to celebrities like Bob Hope, Bette Davis and Frank Sinatra. Yet Carlin describes both towns as *Brady Bunch*-type communities filled with camera operators, production folks and just regular people.

"Neither area was what it is now," Carlin said. "Next door lived a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force. Bob Hope lived in town, but we never saw him. It didn't feel glitzy."

Even so, it wasn't a big leap for Carlin to get highly involved in his high school's improv program and plunge deeply into theater classes for a brief stint at California State University, Northridge. And when he decided to finish his studies out of state, CU Boulder felt like the right fit.

"My dad really liked CU. He said it reminded him of UCLA in the 1950s when he was a student," Carlin recalled. "It's like [Coach] Bill McCartney said, 'If you get the recruits to town, they'll come.'"

Boulder Backstory

When Carlin arrived on campus, Coach McCartney was in his fifth season coaching the Colorado Buffaloes, finishing second in the Big 8. It was CU's best conference record in 25 years. But you were more likely to find Carlin protesting CIA recruitment on campus and CU's investments in South Africa's apartheid than standing in line for football tickets. Clad in his Ecuadorian sweater purchased near the Alferd Packer Grill, Carlin pursued his passion for history, with an emphasis on military history. One of his courses was "Sociology of Peacemaking," which he joked was "a CU way of talking about the military."

"When I decided to transfer to CU, none of my theater classes transferred," said Carlin, who initially thought that it was all a wasted effort. "But the great thing is, I've used the theater and history stuff every single day in my work."

Carlin remembered the history department had a pamphlet printed on green paper titled something along the lines of, "What to Tell Your Parents About Choosing History as a Major." None of the professions he pursued after graduation — journalism, broadcasting and podcasting — appeared on the pamphlet. Carlin addressed this discrepancy in 2020 when he served as CU's first virtual graduation speaker.

"CU gave me the skills to put myself in a position to be offered these gigs," he told the graduates. "And [it gave me] the knowledge, not the specific knowledge about how to do those jobs — after all, I didn't study journalism, broadcasting or podcasting in school — but CU gave me the lifelong ability to know how to keep learning."

"CU gave me the lifelong ability to know how to keep learning."

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Blazin' Joe

Recent graduates turn coffee waste into a sustainable firewood alternative.

By **Julia MacLean**

In 2019, when freshman **Maddie Cataldo** (Mgmt'23) showed up to her first CU Boulder club hockey practice, she didn't know anyone. But a spontaneous locker room conversation about skydiving ignited a friendship.

Maya Nefs (Mgmt'23), then a sophomore and fellow Leeds School of Business student, didn't hesitate: "What are you doing next week? Let's go."

They went, tumbling into the air over Longmont, Colorado.

Years later, that same adventurous spirit fuels their company, Blazin' Joe, which transforms coffee waste into sustainable firewood alternatives. Their business started in a college oven and now operates out of Nefs' garage in Golden, Colorado.

Cataldo and Nefs' journey as business partners is rooted in their shared CU experiences: business classes, a love for the outdoors and hockey.

"Being teammates really helped us work together," Cataldo said. "We're both super competitive, and there's a level of bluntness that's good and healthy to have. You could yell at each other on the ice and grab a beer right after."

They're also candid about the challenges of going into business together.

"I wouldn't say it's super easy going into business with a close friend," Cataldo said. "We have a contract that tells us we need to spend a certain number of hours not talking about Blazin' Joe, but just hanging out."

Nefs added: "We'll go play tennis or grab a happy hour drink. One of the most important aspects of the business is keeping our friendship healthy."

It's a priority that pays off personally and professionally.

"I wouldn't be doing this with anyone else," Nefs said. "Maddie has such a positive attitude, and I definitely find myself aspiring to carry the same positivity."

The idea for Blazin' Joe began in Cataldo's senior capstone course, the New Venture Launch, taught through the business school's Deming Center for Entrepreneurship. Her class project pitch centered on a fire log made from used coffee grounds, which was inspired by her father's entrepreneurial research in biofuels.

"I remember using the oven in my college house 24/7 to dry coffee grounds," said Cataldo. "My roommates were awesome because the house always smelled like coffee — even our clothes."

Cataldo's professor, Brad Werner, saw something unique in her.

"She wasn't just presenting a business idea — she was sharing something she truly believed in," Werner said. "I look for students who demonstrate genuine customer obsession — not just talking about their product, but showing they truly understand their customers' pain points."

Cataldo's team won the pitch at the end of the capstone class, impressing Werner with their compelling presentation, and walking away with first-place recognition.

After graduation, Cataldo tried running the business alone until Nefs stepped in.

"She was thinking of putting it on pause," Nefs said. "I told her, 'Don't do that. I'll work on it with you.' The company had so much potential, and people were buying the product; it just needed two people behind it."

Today, Blazin' Joe makes fire logs and fire starters from coffee chaff — the light, flaky skin of the coffee bean discarded during roasting. It burns clean, hot and efficiently, without the toxic chemicals found in traditional fire-related products.

"We started out using coffee grounds," Cataldo said, "but realized drying them used too much energy. Chaff was the game-changer: it's dry, burns well and it's a huge waste stream in the industry."

They now collect chaff from local Colorado roasters like Sweet Bloom Coffee, Otis Craft Collective and Copper Door Coffee Roasters. They use about four pounds of chaff per log, Cataldo said, and grind it down and press it to shape in Nefs' garage.

"I'm grateful for the setup," Nefs said. "We're not paying rent on a space, and for a small startup, that's critical. We're growing sustainably, on our own terms."

Since launching into retail in January, Blazin' Joe has found traction in farmers markets and local stores like McGuckin Hardware and Lucky's Market. In May, they also won the Next Cycle Colorado Pitch, which supports companies repurposing waste streams in Colorado.

Cataldo is eager to grow the business more.

"Our ultimate goal is to work towards making the coffee industry circular," she said. "We'd love to partner with bigger roasters on a larger scale and repurpose as much waste as possible."

Artifact

Rooftop to Relic

① (No Model.)

W. LUDOWICI.

ROOFING TILE.

No. 283,126. Patented Aug. 14, 1883.

↑ **Color Reaction**
Sunlight reacting with a manganese additive in the once-clear glass caused the tiles to develop a purple hue over time.

↑ **Dimensions**
6 lbs, 14 oz each, and they measure 9" W x 16.25" L x 2" D

① **Patent No. 283,126**
A design from 1883

② **The Hunter Sciences Building**
Previously the Engineering Shops building, which opened in 1908, was demolished in 2002.

② 

CU Boulder's red clay roof tiles are iconic.

More than a century ago, however, other roof tiles — made from glass — could be spotted on campus.

In 1990, Dennis Scheel was selling tools to the CU Boulder maintenance department when he noticed two unique roof tiles stacked under a workbench. The foreman explained that they once belonged to a campus engineering building before the university eventually replaced them with clay. The foreman offered him the pair as a campus storage facility contained more of them.

"I did take them," said Scheel, who lives in Centennial, Colorado. "I was curious when these were used. I assumed before 1921."

Scheel donated the tiles to the CU Heritage Center in July. Mona Lambrecht, Heritage Center interim director and curator, researched the tiles and discovered they had been used to create a 4-foot-long by 60-foot-wide skylight for the Engineering Shops building, which opened in 1908 and was later known as Hunter Sciences until it was demolished in 2002. The skylight illuminated a second-floor drafting room with 100 drawing desks and several geometry models.

"The interlocking design of the glass allowed the tiles to link to each other and the surrounding clay tiles, stay waterproof, and offer natural light," said Lambrecht.

Sunlight reacting with a manganese additive in the once-clear glass caused the tiles to develop a purple hue over time.

The tile's German designer, Wilhelm Ludowici, was part of a family-run, Chicago-based roofing tile manufacturer prominent in the U.S. starting in the late 1800s.

We want to know! Do you remember these roof tiles or the drawing room? Email us at **editor@colorado.edu**.

Engineering Shops: J. Raymond Brackett, Heritage Center, Patent: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Artifact photographed by **Mona Lambrecht**

Matt Talarico

↑ The Boulder Apple Tree Project helps locate, identify and catalog Colorado apple trees.

Origins

The Fruits of History

Boulder's oldest apple trees inspire a campus orchard.

By **April Driver**

The seeds of history took root in the Boulder Apple Tree Project and are now blossoming in the Buffs Backyard Orchard.

In 2017, the Boulder Apple Tree Project began as a way to locate, catalog and preserve the rich apple history of the city, dating to before the turn of the twentieth century, when Colorado ranked as one of the top apple-producing states. To support the project, community members share the location and photos of Boulder apple trees through an app, and the information is cataloged in an online database, complemented by an interactive map.

Within a year of launching, students and researchers identified more than 200 types of apples in Boulder, and each species was sequenced using the trees' DNA.

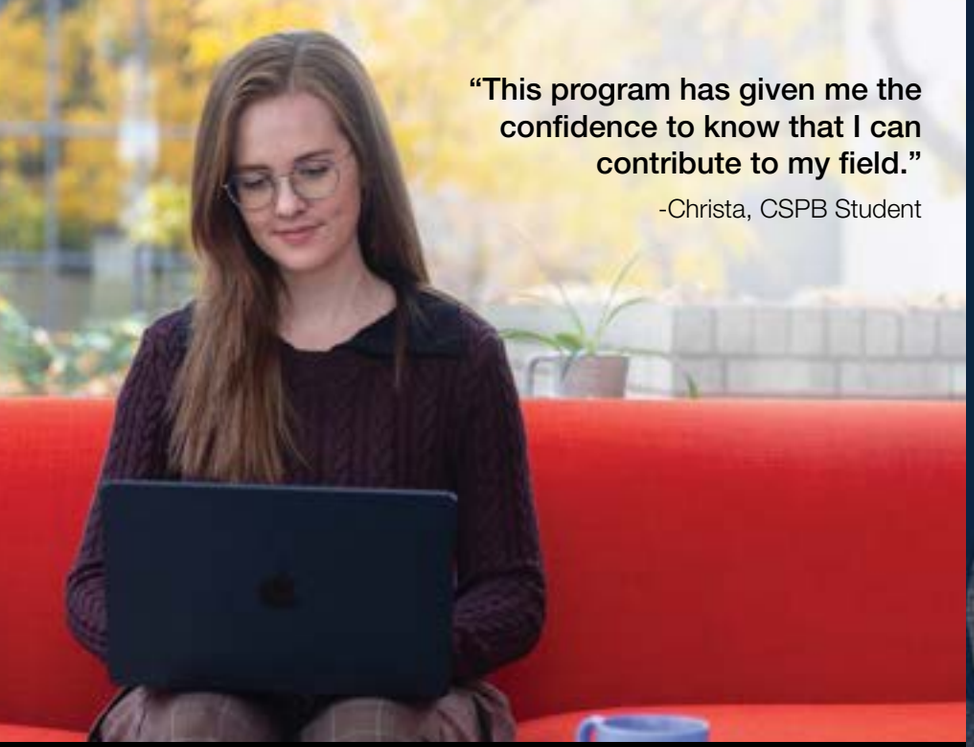
Today, the project has grown. "We have sequenced another 75 apple specimens, with a big push this summer to add 200 more," said Katherine Suding, CU Boulder ecology professor. "I am also proud that we have tagged over 1,200 trees from the area in our database."

This effort provides training for CU Boulder's budding scientists. Over the past eight years, 160 students have contributed to the project, ranging from first-year science students to those completing honors theses and several graduate students.

Last spring, students inspired by the project obtained a $93,000 sustainability grant that has funded the Buffs Backyard Orchard at CU Boulder's 30th Street greenhouse. The vision for the orchard, which was planted by volunteers, is to create a living lab combining history and sustainability by conserving heirloom trees and developing regenerative orchard systems. The orchard is home to 15 varieties of apples, according to *Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine*, including Wolf River and Colorado Orange.

For Suding, the core of the project is the people.

"Having students and community members jointly doing research reflects a shared commitment to ecological stewardship," she said. "It has been a lesson in the power of people working together."



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Beyond Boulder

Grounds for Discovery

Long-standing partnership leads to CU Boulder land gift.

By **Jess Winterley**

It was a hot summer day in the early 1990s when **Linda Holubar Sanabria** (A&S'67) spied the enemy. Tall and deceptively pretty, bearing its hallmark lavender-colored, black-tipped flowers: the spotted knapweed. This noxious weed had quietly claimed Holubar's family ranch as its home, and she soon discovered it was taking up residence on at least 50 acres of the sprawling 493-acre property — of which 476 acres are now known as the Spruce Gulch Wildlife and Research Reserve — which Holubar inherited from her family in 1994.

For the next 15 years, Holubar dedicated the quiet of dawn and the cool of dusk to eradicating the invasive plant, which arrived via contaminated batches of grass seed dispersed by the U.S. Forest Service after a 1988 fire. Leaving the knapweed unchecked was not an option for Holubar and her spouse, **Sergio Sanabria** (A&S'66; Arch'70; MArtHist'75), as they knew this would result in soil erosion, displaced vegetation and overall devastation to the land. So, for thousands of hours, Holubar labored over the acreage.

"At first, I felt very small as I began removing one plant after another from an endless sea of them," said Holubar. "They ranged from taller than me to tiny seedlings."

Though she made substantial progress, the effort needed a boost — not from harmful herbicides, which would contaminate the water and land, but from a more creative (and hungry) solution: weevils.

A Symbiotic Friendship

In 2001, during the thick of her weeding efforts, Holubar learned about a successful experiment at CU Boulder's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR). The project demonstrated that biocontrol

Tim Seastedt

> "Having grown up on this land and having it be a part of my family for almost a century, I view it as my heart and soul and want nothing more than to protect it."
>
> — **Linda Holubar Sanabria** (A&S'67)

insects (in this case, weevils) could greatly reduce densities of an invasive knapweed — similar to the unwelcome foe on Holubar's land.

Putting her hope in these knapweed-eating weevils, she called the lead scholar of the experiment, ecology and evolutionary biology professor (now emeritus) Tim Seastedt.

"Field ecologists don't pass up opportunities to leverage a new field site, and Spruce Gulch is special," said Seastedt. He noted that the innovative insect approach, in addition to preserving good vegetation, could save landowners thousands of dollars in management costs.

Through a combination of hungry weevils and volunteer weeding efforts, the project proved successful over time and demonstrated the effectiveness that non-chemical methods can have on an invasive plant species.

The experiment also opened the door for additional ecology projects on the property — marking the start of what would become a 24-year symbiotic friendship between the university and land, and what would eventually result in a landmark gift.

Inheriting a Legacy

Holubar's connection to the wildlife reserve began nearly a century ago, when her maternal grandmother, Irma Freudenberg, purchased part of it in 1927. With the help of her children, Freudenberg established a ranch on the picturesque land that Holubar's parents, **Alice** (A&S'33) and **LeRoy Holubar** (ElEngr'36), later expanded in 1962.

Boulder's mountainous terrain fostered the family's passion for the outdoors. Holubar's parents were pioneers in developing and sourcing climbing and expedition gear through their business, Holubar Mountaineering (which an interim owner later sold to The North Face). LeRoy Holubar, a CU mathematics professor, also helped establish the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group and the first Boulder climbing school.

Upon Freudenberg's death, Holubar's parents inherited part of the land and expanded it to what is now the Spruce Gulch Reserve. The site has been sculpted by history — from serving as hunting grounds for Indigenous peoples like the Arapaho, to sustaining mining and logging operations, grazing and agriculture, plus wildfires and floods.

"Having grown up on this land and having it be a part of my family for almost a century, I view it as my heart and soul and want nothing more than to protect it," said Holubar.

Her love for the reserve and dedication to conservation meant diligently seeking out its next caretaker — a role that, after withstanding weeds and weevils together, CU Boulder was ready to undertake.

Acres for Academics

Primed to steward Holubar's family legacy of environmentalism into the future, CU Boulder assumed ownership of Spruce Gulch in June of 2025. Holubar's generous 476-acre land donation was accompanied by endowment funds, as well as a conservation easement with Boulder County.

The site and funds, valued at a combined $10.4 million, are managed by INSTAAR and support studies across the sciences, humanities and fine arts. From biologists to visual artists, the reserve and its endowment will enrich and support studies by academics from many departments, opening new educational possibilities across disciplines.

"Sergio and I wanted to discourage an inevitable disciplinary blindness by opening the site to as many different worldviews as possible," said Holubar.

For her commitment to conservation and ensuring the protection of the wildlife reserve, Holubar received Boulder County's 2025 Land Conservation Award. And, for their outstanding community partnership and collaboration on the Spruce Gulch project, Boulder County Parks & Open Space was awarded the Blue Grama Award by the Colorado Open Space Alliance.

A living laboratory, Spruce Gulch features canyons and cliffs intermixed with forest, savanna and prairie meadows. Its abundance of research opportunities has already aided CU faculty and students in producing 29 scholarly publications, plus chapters in six doctoral dissertations, three master's theses and four undergraduate honors theses.

"The acquisition of Spruce Gulch allows us to pursue essential science relevant to the grasslands and foothills region, where most of us live," said Seastedt, director of the reserve. "Therein lies the magnitude of this gift."

Raven Maps & Images

↑ Outdoor recreation can bring more people to small Colorado towns.

Waypoint

Helping Rural Communities Thrive

In rural Colorado, outdoor recreation is a powerful tool for economic development as it encourages visitors to spend more time and money in local communities. But developing these assets can be an arduous process.

The Rural Technical Assistance program (RTAP) provides pro bono assistance to these small towns with the help of graduate students and faculty in CU Boulder's Masters of the Environment (MENV) program, federal and state agencies and other higher education partners. Together, they offer community workshops and goal-oriented action plans centered on boosting outdoor recreation.

In the close-knit Colorado community of Beulah, located southwest of Pueblo, neighbors **Linda Overlin** (Edu'71) and **Joel David May** (Arch'80) saw the potential of outdoor recreation to enliven their 600-resident town. Supported by the RTAP program, including a two-day graduate student-facilitated workshop, the community prioritized ways to develop its outdoor recreation economy.

Already, they've created partnerships with a land conservancy and private landowners to explore how conservation easements and trail developments could help preserve Beulah's rural ranchlands. The goal is to provide greater connectivity between downtown and Pueblo Mountain Park, which consistently draws many tourists and visitors.

Eight other communities — Keystone, La Junta, Huerfano County, Lake City, Rangely and Dinosaur, Leadville, Hayden, and Cripple Creek — have participated in RTAP.

"Beulah has taught me so much about what 'community' means," said **Emily Glass** (MEnv'25). "When designed meaningfully, community-engaged work is an opportunity to weave together different perspectives, ideas and expertise that otherwise may not have come together."

Honoring Outstanding Buffs

Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony takes place in April 2026.

By **April Driver**

↑ Dave Sheanin guides individuals with disabilities in triathlons.

Dave Sheanin

CU Boulder's Alumni Awards celebrate the university's most inspiring leaders and changemakers.

Dave Sheanin (MBA'99), receiving the Alumni Recognition Award this spring, is among the next slate of standout Forever Buffs.

A longtime coach for the University of Colorado Triathlon Team, Sheanin helped lead the team to seven consecutive combined and 15 individual national championships. In 2021, he was named the USA Triathlon Community Impact Coach of the Year. Whether working with elite athletes or teaching beginners to swim, his inspiration comes from the students.

"I fell in love with the students' spirit and enthusiasm," said Sheanin. "I love seeing young people reach their potential."

Outside of the university, he volunteers with Athletes in Tandem, guiding individuals with disabilities in triathlon competitions.

"Helping athletes with disabilities experience the same racecourse as the elite competitors has been one of the most meaningful parts of my journey," he said.

Even with his many contributions and successes, he remains humble.

"I feel like I get back more than I give," he said. "I'm built to want to make an impact; that's the kind of life I want to lead."

Sheanin's story joins the larger history of alumni impact across generations. Eight other outstanding alumni, faculty, staff and students will be recognized at the Alumni Awards Ceremony as part of Alumni Weekend, April 10–13, 2026. (The event previously was held during Homecoming Weekend.)

The winners include **Susan Taylor Mayne** (Chem'82) for the George Norlin Award, Russell L. Moore and David Martinez for the Robert L. Stearns Award, **Dave Sheanin** (MBA'99) for the Alumni Recognition Award, **Stephen Kissler** (ApMath'14; MA'14) for the Kalpana Chawla Outstanding Recent Graduate Award, **Dale Farrand** (AeroEngr'93) for the Leanne Skupa-Lee Award, and **Camden Dempsey** (Fin, Mktg'25) and **Aaditya Pore** (AeroEngr, CompSci'25) for the Forever Buffs Student Award.

Award honorees represent the breadth of Buffs excellence, and, for many, CU is at the heart of their stories.

↗ Learn more at **colorado.edu/alumni/awards**

Event Update

Alumni Weekend is **April 10–13.**

Celebrate in Boulder with other Buffs during Alumni Weekend 2026. Relive your college days at class reunions, exclusive campus tours and other special events. All class years are welcome to join the festivities, which will include the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony.

↗ Learn more at **cubuffs.org/alum-news**

Summer Send-Off Success

This summer, alumni, Buff families and donors celebrated incoming CU Boulder students at nine nationwide Send-Off events filled with Buffs' pride, excitement and well wishes for the adventures ahead. More than 400 people joined in, and with alumni support, there are plans to expand Send-Off events to more cities next year.

Scholarship Volunteers Needed

Every year, the CU Boulder Alumni Association awards over $300,000 in scholarships to more than 200 students. With nearly 1,800 applications expected in 2026, lend your help as a scholarship reviewer. Visit CU Serves to volunteer this spring and help change the lives of our CU Boulder students.

Join the Forever Buffs Advisory Board

Are you one of our most dedicated Forever Buffs? The Alumni Association is seeking new members for the Forever Buffs Advisory Board. Share your time, talents and CU Boulder pride while helping guide our work and connecting with fellow Buffs.

↓ **Sign up or learn more**

Class Notes

↑ The Doobie Brothers played Folsom Field the summer of 1975.

Dan Fong

Throwback

Takin' It to Folsom

By **Julia MacLean**

The summer of 1975, the Doobie Brothers lit up Folsom Field in a concert that has become a legendary piece of CU Boulder's musical history. Photographer **Dan Fong** (Mktg'70), who documented the show, recalled Boulder's then-mayor introducing the group, setting the stage for a performance that brought the entire crowd to its feet.

"Even the kids in the audience went crazy," Fong said. "Age didn't matter. It was good music."

At the time, Fong was working full-time for the Doobie Brothers and had assumed a new role as the band's media coordinator. He was in charge of their worldwide photo requests and oversaw interviews and promotional events. He knew how to capture their spirit both on and offstage.

"This concert was the Michael McDonald [lead vocalist] era, and I was in charge of the album cover for 'Takin' It To The Streets,' absolutely their most famous album to date," Fong said proudly.

But the concert wasn't just about the Doobie Brothers. The Memphis Horns — an American horn section who played with artists ranging from Elvis Presley to Stephen Stills — were traveling and playing exclusively with the Doobie Brothers, making it an unrivaled experience.

Today, Fong's photographs from that night are part of a collection he has worked to preserve with the help of CU Boulder archivists. The collection documents his career as a photographer beginning in 1962, with a special emphasis on his photography of the Colorado music scene. When he attended CU from 1966 to 1970, he worked for a company that specialized in photographing fraternity and sorority parties.

"Most of the collection has images no one's ever seen," Fong said.

In recent years, CU Boulder has brought a few concerts back to Boulder. Dead & Company played Folsom for several summers starting in 2016 and, most recently, Phish came to Folsom in July. The band was the first to play on the field's new artificial turf, which CU installed in mid-June.

CU plans to feature more concerts at Folsom Field. On Oct. 18, DJ and songwriter John Summit was scheduled as the first concert of the academic year.

→ We want your news!
Write the editors at Koenig Alumni Center, Boulder, CO 80309, or editor@colorado.edu.

'55 Graydon "Dee" Hubbard (Bus'55) released his fourth book, *Network Apprentice: Behind the Scenes in Talk Television*, a satirical novel challenging ideas about entitlement and security in American life. A retired CPA, corporate director and avid mountaineer, Dee has also been a student leader, faculty member, Alumni Recognition Award awardee and a lifelong CU supporter. Dee's twin grandsons will graduate from CU next year, and his two sons are also Buffs. He enjoys his winters in St. George, Utah, and maintains a summer home in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, so he can continue his vigorous outdoor activities from both locations.

'58 Professor emeritus of mathematics **Karl "Gus" Gustafson** (ApMath, EngrPhys, Fin'58) taught at CU Boulder for 52 years before retiring in 2020. He writes he was a pioneer in Colorado free climbing in the 1940s and '50s, achieving many first ascents. His memoir, *Upward Bound*, recounts his teenage climbing adventures while blending history, camaraderie and photography. Gus's other authored publications cover topics from mathematics to quantum mechanics. In 2022, an anonymous donor endowed a faculty chair in his name: the Karl Gustafson Endowed Chair of Quantum Engineering, which is embedded in CU's electrical, computer and energy engineering department.

'60 In her fourth and latest book, *Coincidences and Other Spooky Connections,* **Susan Mason Osborn** (Psych'60) links parapsychology, Eastern mysticism, modern physics and elephants. CU is mentioned twice in the book. She lives in Citrus Heights, California.

'68 Through Purdue University Press, **Michael Rosmann** (Psych'68) published his second book, *Meditations on Farming: The Agrarian Drive, Stress, and Mental Health*. The book explores agricultural behavioral health and its history, drawing from Michael's academic work at the University of Virginia and the University of Iowa, as well as his experience operating a family farm.

'69 **Cherie** (Edu'69) and **Ed Greene** (Hist'68) are hoping to hear from former college friends from over 50 years ago, along with those from their former sorority and fraternity, Pi Beta Phi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon. They are eager to reconnect with the university, reminisce about old memories and create new ones. "We'd like to extend our good wishes to those who played such a major role in our development as adults," they said.

'73 **John Gottschall** (MMus'73, PhD'83) completed *Hi, Loved Ones!*, a two-part theological commentary on J.S. Bach's cantatas. The commentary is published on Bach Cantatas Website. He credits his education and his CU mentors **Everett Hilty** (MMus'39) and Don Vollstedt for preparing him for a lifetime of musical ministry.

Barbara Kruse Haas (Edu '73) is the author of the children's picture book *Flustered Without Mustard: Finding Calm When Angry or Frustrated*. The book has concepts to invoke thinking, enliven conversations, motivate writing and enhance character-building skills. Barbara served in the education field from the Madeline Hunter to the Kagan instructional eras, taught many subjects and spent most of her career with 5th graders. Her book can be found on *bookshop.org*, and her website is *rhubarbwisdombooks.com*. She lives with her husband, **Chris** (Busex'71), in Gunnison, Colorado.

SilverStories is the fourth book published by **Micaela Amateau Amato** (MFA'73). Rooted in her Sephardic-Mizrahi heritage, the work blends storytelling, political reflection and ancestral wisdom, illustrated with photos of her own sculptures, portraits and paintings. Amato's art has been exhibited in major cities and honored with multiple awards.

'78 Former senior CIA officer **Robert Dannenberg** (IntlAf'78) and his wife **Sandra Frederick Dannenberg** (Psych'78) lived around the world before returning to Colorado in 2014. Now Robert serves on CU's international affairs advisory board. He co-authored *A Spy Walked Into a Bar: A Practitioner's Guide to Cocktail Tradecraft*, a blend of espionage stories and cocktails drawn from real moments in his career.

'82 CU's longtime sports information director and official athletic historian, **Dave Plati** (Jour'82) is leading a Colorado Sports Hall of Fame project to mark the state's 150th anniversary in August of 2026. Dave will help highlight the 150 greatest sports moments in Colorado history, counting down to the anniversary.

'84 In September, **Corey Lofdahl** (ElEngr'84; PhDPoliSci'97) rode 52 miles in the rain for the Kelly Brush Ride in Middlebury, Vermont, to raise money for spinal injuries. He

The Buff Who Won the Tour de France

Interview by **Heather Mundt**

In 1984, 26-year-old Boulder cyclist **Marianne Martin** (Rec'80) claimed the coveted "maillot jaune" — yellow jersey — as winner of the inaugural Tour de France Féminin. The race, which ran for five years before being discontinued, closely mirrored the men's race: The women completed 18 stages in about 22 days along the same course as the men. (In modern equivalents, women bike racers now complete nine stages in about nine days.)

In October 2024, Martin suffered serious injuries in a road bike crash — but after extensive rehabilitation, is back riding.

How did you start racing? I grew up dancing in Fenton, Michigan, but phased out of it during college. So I found other ways to stay fit, like trail running and cycling. I started riding with friends around 1980 who encouraged me to race. I finished fourth in my first one and started winning after that. Others asked me to join their team, and what I heard was 'barbecues' and 'parties.' I only cared about socializing.

Any training secrets? I met Tim Kelly, who helped boost my mental game with visualization, a new concept back then. And training with Andy Pruitt, a sports medicine pioneer whose philosophies were simple yet effective: Ride with a purpose — no wasted miles! — and rest, which I did way more than my competitors. That was also key to coming back from severe anemia throughout early 1984.

↑ Marianne Martin, second from left, in 1984.

What got you on the U.S. team? In June, just weeks before the Tour, I felt strong enough to race again. I knew one team spot was still open. When I told my friend Steve Tilford, a champion cyclist who knew cycling coach 'Eddie B' Borysewicz, he said, 'We're driving to Colorado Springs!' He drove me to the Olympic Training Center the next day, and I managed to snag the spot. I promised Eddie, 'You won't be disappointed.'

What helped you win? The French didn't think we as women could finish, so that was my only goal. And when we reached the French Alps, my strength surprised me. I thought about riding with Steve back home while I recovered from anemia, how he'd teased me about my poor climbing skills. But they were my superpower, and I wanted that polka-dot jersey (awarded to the mountain-classifications leader). 'I'll show him!' I joked to myself. After summiting 10 minutes ahead of the next riders, it finally registered that I could actually win this thing. It still reminds me that we can do so much more than we think.

Graham Watson

CU Boulder Alumni Association

wore a CU bike jersey that received many compliments, and plans to wear it again next year.

Lori Thompson (IntlAf'84) is a member of the CU Boulder Forever Buffs Advisory Board. In a Q&A with the Alumni Association, she said, "Contributing my time and experiences in support of CU started out as a way to say 'thank you' and has grown into being a part of the awesome Forever Buffs community!" Her favorite event to volunteer for is Homecoming Weekend's Buffs on Tap.

'85 **Dana Acerra Cottrell** (Jour'85) was elected 2025 president of the Colorado Association of Realtors, the largest trade organization in the state. She has been a realtor for over two decades. Prior to real estate, she worked in advertising in New York City, where she met her husband on a blind date. She now lives with her family in Summit County, Colorado.

'86 Emmy-winning screenwriter, journalist and performer **Mark Archuleta** (Engl'86) published his first book and biography, *The Reel Thrilling Events of Bank Robber Henry Starr*. A fifth-generation Coloradan of Spanish Basque descent, he writes he "grew up steeped in the history of the American West and the colorful characters who inhabited it." He lives in Green Valley, California, with his wife, Mimsey, and their dachshund, Kenzie.

Scot Bealer (EPOBio'86) and his wife Lea Frye published their second book, *Wildlife Through the Lens: Stories from Montana and the Rocky Mountains*. In addition to an emphasis on photography, the stories in the book celebrate the beauty of wild animals while including natural history facts. They live in Helena, Montana.

In July, technical consulting company EPSD named **Nicko Goncharoff** (IntlAf'86) chief operating officer. He brings more than three decades of expertise in building and scaling data-driven businesses globally, including co-founding three startups and serving in senior executive roles at global analytics firms. He is based near Edinburgh, Scotland.

Nancy Daw Kane (Dance '86) released the second edition of her textbook, *History and Philosophy of Physical Education and Sport*. Additionally, her chapter titled "Duty of Care: Non-Traumatic Deaths and DI Collegiate Football" will be released as part of the book *College Sports Ethics* in December 2025. She is a UNESCO dance member and an educator with distinction at the State University of New York. She lives in Brooktondale, New York.

'88 Judge **Regina "Gina" Rodriguez** (Law'88) was awarded the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is presented to an attorney over 55 who has made significant contributions to the Hispanic community. Gina is a federal judge on the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. She joined the court in 2021.

'89 While at CU, **Dan "Gonzo" Machanik** (Advert'89) was known for his hilarious Mick Jagger impressions and for winning Tulagi's lip synch contests. Today, he performs stand-up comedy around the world. This Halloween and Nov. 1, he was scheduled as the headliner at Jimmy Kimmel's Comedy Club on the Las Vegas Strip, where he wrote that he was planning to share fond memories from CU's once-legendary Halloween mall crawls.

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"Even the kids in the audience went crazy," Fong said. "Age didn't matter. It was good music."

At the time, Fong was working full-time for the Doobie Brothers and had assumed a new role as the band's media coordinator. He was in charge of their worldwide photo requests and oversaw interviews and promotional events. He knew how to capture their spirit both on and offstage.

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But the concert wasn't just about the Doobie Brothers. The Memphis Horns — an American horn section who played with artists ranging from Elvis Presley to Stephen Stills — were traveling and playing exclusively with the Doobie Brothers, making it an unrivaled experience.

Today, Fong's photographs from that night are part of a collection he has worked to preserve with the help of CU Boulder archivists. The collection documents his career as a photographer beginning in 1962, with a special emphasis on his photography of the Colorado music scene. When he attended CU from 1966 to 1970, he worked for a company that specialized in photographing fraternity and sorority parties.

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■ Callout

Creators of *South Park*, **Matt Stone** (FilmSt, Math'93) and **Trey Parker** (DistSt'18), signed a five-year, $1.5-billion deal with Paramount+, giving the platform exclusive global streaming rights to the show, including 50 new episodes.

'90 After more than 18 years of service to CU Boulder, **Angela Farone** (Soc'90; MRelSt'99) retired in June as senior philanthropic advisor for the Renée Crown Wellness Institute. At CU, she helped launch the university's first advancement strategic plan, created the principal gifts program, led parent giving efforts and helped establish the Crown Institute. She is beginning a new chapter as an executive coach.

'93 After a 32-year career in the semiconductor industry and 28 years at Intel in silicon technology development, **Chris Connor** (MechEngr'93) officially retired. Now he is writing *The Rise and Fall of Intel*, set for release in late 2025. He plans to then embark on a book tour and launch a podcast, *The Chris Connor Catalyst*.

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'95 Author, conservationist and jaguar enthusiast **James Campbell** (MCreatWrit'95) wrote *Heart of the Jaguar: The Extraordinary Conservation Effort to Save the Americas' Legendary Cat*. The book introduces readers to the animal biologists and conservationists trying to save these big cats from extinction.

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck named **Elizabeth Paulsen** (PolSci'95) chair of the firm's corporate and business department, a leadership role she has previously held. Elizabeth completed a nine-year term on the firm's executive committee and is widely recognized for her corporate legal practice and expertise in sports betting and online gaming law.

'97 As the satellite and ground systems operations branch chief at the U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Research Observation and Science Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, **Joe Blahovec** (ElCompEngr'97) leads the team managing the Landsat 9 and 8 satellite missions. Under his leadership, the team recently decommissioned the Landsat 7 satellite after it completed 25 years of successful Earth observation, exceeding its original five-year design life.

Tax attorney **Brandee A. Tilman** (Econ'97) launched SALT (State & Local Income Tax) Consulting with accounting firm Smith + Howard. She has over 25 years of experience in legal and technical roles and has held several leadership positions, including at The Walt Disney Company.

'98 Longtime Colorado restaurateur **Nancy Kao** (Chin, Math'98) opened Fen's Cafe in the ATLAS Center cafe space on the CU Boulder campus last September. The cafe serves Taiwanese street food, pastries, boba teas and coffee drinks on weekdays. Fen's Cafe also offers catering throughout the Boulder area.

Lynn Schofield Clark (PhdComm'98), professor in University of Denver's Department of Media, Film & Journalism Studies and director of its Estlow Research Center, was named to the 2025 Class of International Communication Association (ICA) fellows. ICA is the largest professional organization of communication and media researchers and educators in the world.

'00 Award-winning editor of *Brown* alumni magazine since 2018, **Pippa Jack** (Jour'00) is now editor of *Yale* alumni magazine. One of her goals with the magazine is to strengthen its digital pres-

Saving Colorado Landmarks

Interview by **Julia MacLean**

From iconic hotels to community landmarks, the Colorado Historical Foundation works to protect the state's most meaningful places — and **Catherine Stroh** (Art'95) is leading the effort. A Colorado native and longtime Boulder resident, Stroh blends an appreciation for design and architecture with a passion for Colorado history as the foundation's president and CEO.

How do you best describe the Colorado Historical Foundation? We have many different tools to preserve historic places in Colorado. One of the ways we do that is through conservation easements on physical buildings, structures and cultural landscapes. This prevents them from being demolished or severely altered, so that they can essentially look the same as they did during their significant period of history. We also operate a low-interest loan program to help people repair and revitalize historic buildings.

What are some of the foundation's projects right now? The Fort, a well-known restaurant in Morrison, is modeled after Bent's Old Fort (a fur trading post built in 1833) in southeast Colorado and protected by one of our conservation easements. We also have an easement on the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park. And in Boulder, we provided a low-interest loan to help support the rehabilitation of the Mary H. Galey Cottage within the nationally landmarked Colorado Chautauqua property.

↑ Preservation planning for Florence, Colorado's, Orecchio Block.

What should Buffs know about Colorado history? There is so much history centered in Colorado. The story of the state is really a convergence of so many different stories, from Indigenous populations who were here originally to the pioneers who came in when it was a Spanish Territory. There are many different influences throughout the state and a lot of history to continually uncover.

What's your favorite historic place you've worked on? The old Smiley Junior High School in Durango has been turned into a commercial space with a lot of unique offices, creative spaces and even apartments. On the first floor, there's a coffee shop and an art market retail area. To see that building activated in such a new way while still retaining its schoolhouse properties is really cool.

Colorado Historical Foundation

CU Boulder Alumni Association

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ence. In addition to her studies at CU Boulder, Pippa studied classics at Oxford University.

Chief legal officer for Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck **Jonathan Pray** (Econ'00; Law '05) was elected to a three-year term for the firm's executive committee. As one of the firm's lead litigators, he brings experience from the real estate and construction industries.

'01 **Karl Vaillancourt** (Arch Engr'01) is co-founder of Precision Construction Services, an award-winning San Luis Obispo firm ranked in the top half of the *Inc. 5000* list for four straight years. Among California's top five general contractors, Precision has completed projects spanning from rocket landing facilities to hotels and affordable housing.

'02 **Josh Aerie** (MMus '02) was named executive director of the Fischoff National Chamber Music Association in Notre Dame, Indiana, a leader in music education outreach and home to the world's largest chamber music competition. Alongside his new role, Josh continues an active career as a conductor and cellist, performing nationwide with the Sylvan Trio, the flute-cello-piano ensemble he co-founded.

'03 As CU Boulder's associate vice chancellor for sustainability, **Cara Carmichael** (EnvDes'03; MCivEngr'09) has over 20 years of experience advancing systemic and collaborative change across federal, state and local levels, including sustainability advancement collaborations with more than a dozen universities. Most recently, Cara served at the White House, where she led the development of the nation's first federal building performance standard, among other achievements.

'05 **Jennifer Moore** (MCreatWrit'05) is the author of *Easy Does It* (2021) and *The Veronica Maneuver* (2015), both from the University of Akron Press, as well as *Smaller Ghosts,* a chapbook of centos from Seven Kitchens Press (2020). A Seattle-area native, Jennifer is a professor of poetry and director of the honors program at Ohio Northern University. She lives in Bowling Green, Ohio.

'06 Former CU football star and Olympic skier **Jeremy Bloom** (A&S ex'06) launched a Boulder-based AI sports technology company called The Owl AI. The company aims to revolutionize the sports industry with artificial intelligence designed to enhance fairness, transparency and fan immersion.

'07 After a life-altering injury in 2023, **Ken White** (Fin'07) started the "Break Your Neck: Run, Walk, or Roll" 5K event held in Pueblo, Colorado, to raise funds for spinal cord injury rehabilitation research. The event welcomes participants of all abilities and disabilities, promoting inclusion and support.

'09 In 2022, *Fast Company* recognized **David Samad** (Fin'09) as one of the most creative people in business. He cofounded Stillstrom, a greentech startup owned by the shipping company Maersk that focuses on decarbonizing the oceans. Stillstrom is building offshore charging and power infrastructure to help ships reduce emissions while at sea. He lives in White Plains, New York.

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Nicolas Pinkowski's (MechEngr'16) Nitricity transforms how fertilizer is produced and distributed by harnessing clean energy.

'14 **Romain Vakilitabar** (Mktg'14) is the founder of the nonprofit Pathos Labs, which partners with entertainment and media professionals to explore different ways to rewrite mainstream narratives shown on screen. His network includes showrunners and TV writers behind hits like *Friends, How I Met Your Mother, The Handmaid's Tale, BoJack Horseman* and *Foundation*. Through his work, Romain helps inspire more nuanced, specific and impactful storytelling.

'15 **Mel Fellay** (Acct'15) is founder and CEO of Spekit, a Denver-based startup that offers an AI-powered content and enablement platform for revenue teams. This year, she published the book *Just-In-Time: The Future of Enablement in a World of AI.*

As a Rotary Global Scholar at the University of Oxford, **Max Nathanson** (PolSci'15) earned his PhD in climate politics. His research was built on his previous experience working in the Colorado state government and with Congress. During his studies, he served as the inaugural climate security fellow at the William J. Perry Center, the U.S. Department of Defense's regional center for Latin America and the Caribbean. In this role, he partnered with the Secretary of Defense's office to raise awareness in the Americas about climate change impacts, humanitarian protection needs and the importance of civilian oversight of defense institutions. He now lives in Colorado.

'16 After receiving a PhD in energy systems from Stanford University, **Nicolas Pinkowski** (MechEngr'16) co-founded Nitricity, a company transforming how fertilizer is produced and distributed by harnessing clean electricity. As CEO, Nico leads Nitricity's mission to create sustainable, plant-based solutions designed to support healthy soils, farmers and the environment.

'18 St. Louis construction firm Tarlton promoted **Nina Elsperman** (Span'18) to proposal coordinator, where she will oversee proposal research, coordination and development. She also leads the company's philanthropy committee.

Royer Lopez (Mktg'18) is a member of the Forever Buffs Advisory Board. He and his wife, **Angie Chavez-Lopez** (Econ'17; MEdu'22), founded the nonprofit Mi Leyenda Foundation to help provide resources to students hoping to attend college. The foundation offers yearly scholarships, including to a CU first-year student this fall, and mentoring to its scholars. In June, the foundation received 501(c)(3) status with the IRS.

'19 Pianist **Mina Gajić** (DMus'19) co-leads COmpass REsonance (CORE), Colorado's acclaimed string ensemble. She helps guide the ensemble's programming, mentorship program for thousands of students annually, and expansion into global opportunities through initiatives like the summer 2026 CORE Strings Institute in Italy.

Mikey Schumacher (Advert'19) is the founder of "but cute," a plush toy company that helps kids feel seen and supported by celebrating imperfection. Inspired by the idea that insecurities are superpowers, Mikey creates snuggly toys that turn emotions into comfort. Earlier this year, the company won $38,500 at the University of Southern California's New Venture Seed Competition, the university's largest startup competition.

'20 CU Boulder's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) welcomed **Ellen Considine** (ApMath'20) as its newest fellow. She is an assistant professor in the department of geography, where she brings expertise in environmental change, health and well-being, and data science.

Olivia Krohn (MSPhys'20; PhD'23) and **Daniel Herman** (MPhys'20; PhD'22) were awarded distinguished fellowships from Sandia National Laboratories, reflecting their outstanding contributions to physics as early-career researchers. Olivia's research focuses on molecular collisions, particularly at low energies. Dan's research focuses on im-

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Polar Perspectives

Interview by **Julia MacLean**

As a wildlife photographer and conservation storyteller, **Lianna Nixon** (Class'17; MEdu'21) considers the Arctic her second home. What began as a college expedition evolved into a career that blends art, science and education. From drifting on sea ice to counting polar bears, her adventures are as fascinating as they are meaningful.

Tell us about some of your Arctic adventures. I first went in 2017 with Sea Legacy, a nonprofit run by two National Geographic photographers. Perhaps my most transformative Arctic photography and film experience was working on the MOSAiC Expedition (the Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate) while at CU. I was able to create connections about the Arctic climate system we see today, the experiences of scientists and the prowess of intersectional storytelling through visceral art-science narratives. While out on the ice floe, we were also visited by quite a few polar bears!

What are things you work on in the Arctic? Six to eight weeks out of the year, I guide on expeditions out of Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago, photographing arctic wildlife. It's not just about posting on Instagram — it's being able to create conversations and share the beauty, vulnerability and importance of this region. My work is taken further into the scope of science and conservation outreach to be used in citizen science projects that observe wildlife behavior and other communication needs.

↑ Lianna Nixon is an educator who blends science and art.

What can people take from your work? My work focuses on applying new-age media, which includes photography, film, immersive 360-degree film and storytelling. We humanize and bring different perspectives to abstract, difficult or polarizing topics, which is essentially the premise of climate science.

What motivated you to earn an education degree? I always wanted to be a scientist, but my brain is programmed for art. That's why I chose education — it's a fantastic mediary space to bring those two together.

What are you doing when you aren't in the Arctic? I mainly do graphic design. My job has had to be very flexible with guiding, because I also hold my own BEAR Expedition a couple of weeks a year in Alaska, which allows people to view brown bears. I'm also director of Tsé Bii', a nonprofit which works with the Diné of the Navajo Nation located in Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park to bring sustainable off-grid electrical and water resources to their homes.

Lianna Nixon

CU Boulder Alumni Association

Callout

While raising two young children, **Michelle Grabau** (MBA'25) pursued her MBA to bring her dream business to life.

proving atmospheric remote sensing by developing applications of optical frequency combs, lasers that act like a ruler for light.

'21 **Isaiah Chavous** (Pol Sci'21) is CEO and founder of Noctal, a company pioneering automatic audio and production tools. Noctal's technology enhances content creation for professional studios and online creators, streamlining production workflows and elevating the quality of digital content.

Amanda Rose Villarreal (PhDThtr'21), a faculty member at California State University Fullerton, created and launched a teaching credential program for future theatre teachers. While doing this work, they have worked as an intimacy choreographer and coordinator throughout the U.S., Australia and Europe. Their forthcoming book combines teaching, consent and performance into a new framework for facilitating arts education in ways that support students' personal and cognitive development needs.

'22 After completing a master's degree in urban visioning and architectural design at Domus Academy, **Daniel Pontoriero** (EnvDes'22) joined Matteo Mauro Studio in Milan, Italy, as lead studio assistant. He writes that he is grateful to be creating and sharing art in the world's design capital and welcomes visitors to experience the beauty of Milan.

Media relations and outreach director for SoGood Productions **Jeff Steele** (Hist'22), **Zachary Bakken** (Psych'24) and **Ethan Nelson** (Art'23) have co-created *The Ant*, a psychological thriller. The short film was shot in Fort Collins and premiered at Screamfest 2025 in Los Angeles, one of the nation's top genre film festivals.

'25 While raising two young children, **Michelle Grabau** (MBA'25) pursued her MBA to bring her dream business to life, a venture designed to create a welcoming space for families to connect, play and work. Her idea became a top-five finalist in the 2025 Women Founders New Venture Challenge. After graduation, she officially launched R Place and aims to open a social club offering Denver families community, on-demand childcare and flexible workspaces.

This summer, **Sophia Mc Keown** (StComm'25) joined the Philadelphia Phillies as a special events associate, fulfilling her dream of working in major league sports. Sophia works to create memorable experiences for the Phillies community and celebrate the team's ongoing success.

The Roaming Buffs travel program offers Buffs the opportunity to travel the world on fully planned, once-in-a-lifetime trips with other CU alumni.

Iceland and Northern Lights

→ Oct. 10–18, 2026

Journey through Iceland's dramatic landscapes and charming towns, chasing the northern lights by night and exploring geothermal wonders and rich Nordic culture by day.

Masters of the Air

→ Sept. 23–Oct. 1, 2026

Tour East Anglia and London sites where American troops were stationed during the "Friendly Invasion" of WWII, and meet locals who have restored and maintained the troops' bases, control towers and observation decks to keep their stories alive.

Exploring Galapagos

→ Sept. 25–Oct. 4, 2026

Explore this legendary archipelago through an expedition that offers daily encounters with wildlife, volcanic wonders and the vibrant undersea world — all guided by expert naturalists and adventurers.

→ For more information
visit cubuffs.org/travel

In Memoriam

→ To report a death
Email advancement.data management@cu.edu
or write Data Management, 1800 Grant St., Suite 215, Denver, CO 80203.
Please include date of death and other relevant information.

1940s

Shirley Sterling McKeever (Nurs ex'44)
Elisabeth Boatright Baxter (A&S ex'46)
Elizabeth Winchester Isaacs (A&S ex'46)
Chester L. Karrass (MechEngr'47; Bus'48)
William P. Taylor (MechEngr'47)
William K. Jann Sr. (MechEngr'49)

1950s

Caroline Steik Brehmer (Edu'50)
Anne Reynolds Conkling (Chem, Math'50)
Mabel Fulker Korbitz (Edu'50)
John M. Shepherd (Mktg'50)
Jane Waters Carlson (Engl'51)
Mary Brown Christopher (A&S'51)
Julia Meiklejohn Johnson (Engl'51; MCommDisor'67)
James H. Peacock (ArchEngr'51)
Joan Hubbell Shull (Bus'51)
Robert W. Throckmorton (Soc'51)
Laura Berger Bacon (Soc'52)
Charles F. Bogard (MechEngr'52)
Earl T. George Jr. (CivEngr'52)
Elizabeth Davis Holcomb (HomeEcon'52)
Charles W. Oertli (ElEngr'52)
Paula Lundell Wiseman (Anth'52)
Edie Keena Boulter (BusEdu'53)
James P. Kelly (ChemEngr'53)
David C. Knowlton (Law'53)
Judith Alberson Lutz (Edu'53)
Victor R. Meline Jr. (CivEngr'53)
Raymond Pollock (Phys'53)
Harvey D. Prace (MechEngr'54)
Marilyn Munson Ross (Soc'54)
Cynthia Skelton Weberg (Chem'54; MA'57)
Golda Clarkin Boeck (Fin'55)
Marcia Dumas-Fabian (PolSci'55)
Billie J. Kennedy (Acct'55)
Jo Hancock Martin (Edu'55)
Wayne P. Moellenberg (Chem'55)
Ruth Demaree Peck (Mus'55)
Terry Brown Rostamo (DistSt'55)
Marcia Toll Saunders (Law'55)
Janet Laxson Blanchard (Edu'56)
Susan Scott Foulk (HomeEcon'56)
Margaret Hirst Holdredge (Chem'56)
Bruce E. Lawrenson (MechEngr'56)
Joseph T. Mattson (ChemEngr'56)
James E. Tebay (EngrPhys'56)
James F. Walsh (MEdu'56)
Mary Boyle Boncelet (A&S'57)
John H. Drabing (DistSt'57)
Dianne Donahue Garrison (A&S'57)
Lee T. Johnson (Edu'57)
John S. Krebs (MechEngr'57; PhDGeog'73)
Nancy B. Miller (A&S'57)
William C. Peterson (PE'57)
Ann Leavitt Reno (A&S'57)
Kenneth G. Tallman (MechEngr'57)
R. Lee VanDeren (Fin'57)
Jane Weaver (Edu'57)
Karl A. Yost (A&S'57)
Robert S. Brooks (Engl'58)
John W. Dean (MechEngr'58; MS'58)
Robert B. Foster (MechEngr, Mgmt'58)
Charles W. Joslin (PE'58)
Nancy L. Morgan (A&S'58)
Robert Redford (A&S ex'58, HonDocHum'87)
Jane Hester Strauss (A&S'58)
Charles C. VanValin (MChem'58)
Gordon R. Bopp (ChemEngr'59; MS'61)
Neil R. Carroll (Mktg'59)
Violace T. Durnell (MechEngr, Mgmt'59)
Anne Price Goodnight (A&S ex'59)
Robert H. Hughes (A&S'59; MA'63; PhDSoc'71)
Edward R. Miller (Mgmt'59; MBA'59)
Jean Nott Misiaszek (MusEdu'59; MA'64)
Gerald C. Skelton (Phil'59)
Benedict N. Smith II (Hist'59)
Timothy D. Walker (Hist'59; MA'67)

1960s

Robert H. Butcher (Geol'60; MS'62)
Charles F. Donelan (Mgmt'60; MechEngr'60)
Barbara Kedro Heidbreder (Advert'60)
Michael D. High (AeroEngr'60)
Ann Gragg Lowdermilk (Math'60)
Dale C. Miller (MechEngr'60)
J. Lauren Andree (A&S ex'61)
Linda Haynie Gilmore (Acct'61)
Dwight L. Johnson (Mgmt'61)
Phyllis Miller O'Connor (Hist'61)
Paul W. Reimers (Mgmt'61)
Gordon N. Saunders (A&S'61; MHist'68)
Diane Kline Schroeder (HomeEcon'61)
Robert K. Wilson (PE'61)
Thomas M. Conley (Econ'62)
Gilbert J. Gross (ChemEngr'62)
Ralph A. Heck (A&S'62)
Alan R. Hoffman (Phys'62)
Raymond A. Miles (Mgmt'62)
Leo A. Noll (MA&S'62; PhDChem'76)
James C. O'Connor (Mgmt'62)
Alan J. Olson (Fin'62)
Bertil O. Olson (CivEngr'62)
Harvey B. Sperling (A&S'62)
Thomas F. Valleau Jr. (A&S'62)
Gary E. Walvoord (Art'62)
Randall L. Weeks (Law'62)
James F. Ellis (A&S'63)
John M. Hart (Mgmt'63)
Roger D. Jennings (PhDPsych'63)
Dianne Van Horn Moss (Bus'63)
Joann Mahaney O'Neill (Edu'63)
Reed D. Riner (ArtHist'63; MAnth'71; PhD'77)
Donald M. Sackschewsky (MMath'63)
Joel B. Short (Hist'63; Law'66)
William J. Ballas (Math'64; Law'69)
Gayle Gowdy Hamer (A&S'64)
Samuel J. Kiteley (Mus'64)
Peter C. Lev (Phil'64)
George R. Tyrrell (ElEngr'64)
Mary Roberts Arris (MA&S'65)
William R. Beckwith (A&S'65)
John L. Cheney (Fin'65)
John M. Hammerick Jr. (A&S'65)
Donna Perrella Knudson (PolSci'65)
Burnell G. West (PhDPhys'65)
Donald G. White (ElEngr'65)
Michael R. Chase (Bus'66)
Vaughn E. Huckfeldt (Math'66)
George L. Kiteley (MusEdu'66; MMus'68)
John H. McLean III (Geog'66)
Claudia Baidas Schwartz (PolSci'66)
Claude L. Fox (MA&S'67; PhDPhil'75)
Jack C. Hanley (Mgmt'67)
Gary G. Lager (ElEngr'67)
Warren B. Lange (MElEngr'67)
Douglas H. Marshall (Art'67)
Pepe J. Mendez (A&S'67; Law'70)
Bonnie Thompson Witkowsky (Edu'67)
Francis J. Garlitz (Phys'68)
Howard P. Herbst (PolSci'68)
Judith Walker Pippin (A&S'68)
Fred T. Seely (MechEngr'68)
Richard I. Yates (MEdu'68)
Joan Martin Betz (Hist'69)
Vincent V. Butler (DistSt'69)
Garneth Ludka Harris (Edu'69)
Charles B. Holzer (ApMath'69; MCompSci'71)
Erat S. Joseph (PhDCivEngr'69)
Eugene Harold "Jay" Knutson (IntlBus'69)
James F. Lathrop (PhDMath'69)
Lynn Edy Whitman (MEdu'69)
Michael L. Conkling (Mktg'73)
Robert B. Dallenbach (PhDEdu'73)
John L. Green (MElEngr'73)
Mike L. Mitchell (MChem'73)
Margaret K. Moschenross (MEdu'73)
Michael L. Fischler (PhDEdu'74)
Roberta Weinstein (MComm'74)
Robert W. Becker (MElEngr'75)
Luther K. Branting (Phil'75)
John Dakin (Hist'75; Jour'79)
Richard E. Poley (Psych'75; MAcct'78)
Myra Cohen Monfort Runyan (Law'75)
Bert Carollo (MCDBio'76)
Greg J. Hoiland (Acct'76)
Robert A. Shapiro (MCDBio'76)
David H. Williams (Soc'76)
Steven B. Wyatt (Mktg'76)
Dorsett W. Jordan (EngrPhys'77)
Michael R. Moore (Econ'77)
John C. Wolta Jr. (Phil'77)
Dale T. Dudley (EPOBio'78)
Sharon Nelson Fitzgerald (Soc'78; Law'82)
Patricia A. Gallegos (MComm'78)
Wilma L. Jones (DEdu'79)

1970s

Ellen Bernstein Blickenstaff (Edu'70)
William E. Collins Sr. (Bus'70)
Derek E. Faison (Mktg'70)
David L. Gershon (Fin'70)
David W. Hardy (Econ'70)
Diana Krushnic Hopkins (PolSci'70)
Richard A. Lathrop (Jour'70)
Edythe S. Miller (PhDEcon'70)
Judith M. Axelrad (Anth'71)
Joseph M. Conncannon (MChemEngr'71)
Phil C. Klingsmith (Engl'71)
Kathryn Manning Gorman (Ital'72)
James R. Hermanson (Chem'72)
James H. Horsburgh (OrgMgmt'72; MBusEdu'73)
Robert L. Mathis (PhDBus'72)
Karin A. Pearson (Fren'72)
Alan K. Wong (ElEngr'72)
Eugene M. Baker (Psych'73; MA'75; PhD'77)

1980s

Linda Neldner Sheridan (Mus'80)
Carol Skinner (Comm'80)
Randy K. Wilson (EPOBio'80; MBA'84)
Scott D. Hall (CivEngr'81)
Charles S. Ladd (ElEngr, Fin'81)
Ralph D. Rempel (CivEngr'81)
Nancy J. Simon (MCDBio'81)
John M. Verner (ElEngr'81)
Charles K. Albright (MechEngr'82)
Elizabeth A. MacDonald (Law'82)
Karen McCune-Barca (Anth'83)
Nancy A. Coderre (Econ'84)
Michael S. Fox (Econ'84)
Mary I. Goetze (PhDMus'85)
Nancy Kenny Rudolph (MBA'85)
Matthew Nitta (Hist'86)
Marjorie L. N. Sloan (Law'86)
Andrew T. Alexander (Psych'87)
Randall R. Ballweg (Acct'87)
Ammon A. Apple (PhDMus'89)
Chad C. Cerinich (OrgMgmt'89)
Adele G. Platter (PhDSoc'89)

1990s

Hua P. Chou (MCompSci'90)
Anthony A. Taylor (Ling'90; MBaSci'96)
Thomas E. Valeski (MBA'90)
Rose Nelson (Psych'91)
Donald F. Miller (Psych'92)
Joseph E. Berta (PhDPsych'94)
Hal S. Riker (Psych'94)
David M. Uhlir (MBA'94)
Charles R. Baily (Phys'95; PhD'11)
Samuel E. Bolton (Anth'95)
Sandra Ross Kruse (Mktg'96)
Kelly McLean Mudgett (MCommDisor'96)
Teresa Nettleton Hollingsworth (EPOBio'97)

2000s

Kathleen M. Beltrame (Psych'04)
Adam G.R. Gilmer (Arch'05)
Bradley J. Hager (Psych'05)
Brendan J. Kelly (Mgmt'05)
Stephen R. Blum (Fin'06)
Charles M. McGee (Fin'06)
Jacob R. Ellington (Econ'07)
Tyler D. Decker (Astro'09)
Alexander S. Newell (Mktg'09)

2010s

Braden I. Bingham (MechEngr'14)
Wylee M. Price (IntlAf'17)
Ian W. Sharp (StComm'17)

2020s

Christopher B. Greiter (Biochem ex'26)

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Ralph "Chris" Christoffersen, Friend
Frederick "Fred" Mathewson Denny, Religious Studies
Allen L. Kenney, Friend
Marie G. Kindgren, Electrical Engineering

Then

Glenn Asakawa

August 1986

Glenn Asakawa (Jour'86), 1986 CU Boulder yearbook editor, took this photo his senior year during move-in day. Now a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist, Asakawa serves as the university's lead photographer and multimedia producer.

Looking back, he recalls the unique spirit of CU Boulder in the mid-1980s.

"CU Boulder was its own universe, where legendary throwdowns like the Trivia Bowl, Alferd Packer Days or any of the amazing Program Council concerts mattered more than politics," Asakawa said.

He recalled big changes, too, such as Coach McCartney taking the Buffs to the 1985 Freedom Bowl football game versus Baylor, Gordon Gee becoming the university president and the loss of astronaut **Ellison Onizuka** (Aero'69; MS'69; HonDocSci'03) aboard the Challenger space shuttle.

"Still, the campus was brightening up," Asakawa said. "Boulder had more open space and quirky local spots, like Naoki's on The Hill or the LA Diner, where you could get liver and onions, which I actually ordered from time to time!"